



“Speak Lord for your servant is listening” | Samuel 3:10a NRSV

Dear Friends,

This passage is taken from an encounter the young boy Samuel, (who later was to become a great judge and prophet of Israel) had with God. Notice when God calls him, Samuel responds as Eli (the high priest, judge, and mentor for Samuel) instructs him to, *“speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”*

From that first encounter with God, Samuel did indeed listen. Whatever God asked of him, he did throughout his ministry.

Why do I lead off with this story? I believe It points to a spiritual principle for God’s children on this earth. The principle is that God does give us guidance if we but listen. It does not have to be some great “special effects presentation” from God for such guidance to happen.

I would specifically like to take one aspect of that principle of God’s guidance in our lives in giving of our “treasure” or funds to God’s work. I know of what I speak because I have found that “listening for God’s guidance” guides me in my giving to the church or other Christian ministries. If God is calling me to give to a certain cause, and it seems a certain amount to donate comes to my heart and mind, I have tried to respond by being faithful to giving that amount. Over the years as I have done this, I have never missed what I gave, usually getting that amount back in unexpected ways.

A story was once told me about a parishioner at one of my former churches by her daughter which makes this point. Antoinette, or “Toni”, as everyone knew her, settled in America with her husband and family from Norway. In the early days of their time in this country, Toni, with her daughter, helped make ends meeting by doing cleaning for various businesses and homes in the community. Toni had her wages from her last cleaning job when she went to church that Sunday. During that Sunday a special appeal went out for a missionary who spoke in church. Her daughter watched while her mother took all the proceeds from her cleaning job and calmly placed it in the offering plate. She tried to stop her mother, but her mother firmly told her that this what God was calling her to do. Well, her daughter was beside herself, thinking her mother had “lost it”. When Monday came around, the daughter found out from her mother that they had two new cleaning jobs that not only made up for what her Mom put in the offering plate but exceeded it.

I confess I too can be reluctant when I sense God is nudging me to give something, especially when I think what I’m supposed to do puts me out of my “comfort zone”. Yes, I hesitate or sometimes I am just plain lazy to do what God may be asking of me! But in the end when I do, I find I have not “suffered” financially because of it!

I think if all of God’s children responded as God directed, all the good ministries that do God’s work, especially the local church would have what they need to do what God is directing them to do in mission.

Easter Sunday Worship
9:00 & 11:00am
Breakfast
8-10:30am

So, what is God directing YOU to do? May we answer as the boy Samuel, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.”

Your brother in Christ,
John

