International Bible Lesson
International Bible Study Commentary
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Speak Lord, I Will Obey
1 Samuel 3:8–20

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place (1 Samuel 3:9—ESV).

Every time we open the Bible, the Word of God written, our prayer to the Lord Jesus can be, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears." Whenever we read the Bible, we can learn something about God and His ways and works, but what we learn will be worth more to us and others if we come to the Bible and to Jesus humbly and say to Him, "Please speak in Your Word. Your servant hears."

"Hearing" doesn't mean that you just read to learn something new or to be reminded of something you once found interesting in the Bible. When you read the Bible, say to the Lord Jesus, "Tell me what I need to do, Lord, and I will do whatever you say in your Word. Speak and I will obey You." Such submission assumes we first know some truths about Jesus and His teachings, for Jesus does not want our blind or uninformed submission. We want to do as He teaches in the Bible. Jesus does not want us misled by false teachings and teachers.

Samuel learned the Law of God from Eli, and Samuel believed in and practiced the Law of God up to the level of his understanding. His mother had left him at the temple to learn to love and serve God, and unlike Eli's sons, he never turned away from God. Samuel knew enough to know that God would never contradict himself or tell anyone to do anything contrary to the Law of God, which reveals the character of God. Samuel knew God well enough from the Law of God that he knew the LORD would never tell him to do anything wrong.

Jesus will never tell us to do anything wrong. He will always help us understand and do what is right and according to the will of the true God. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to help us understand the Bible with a desire to believe more in the Bible, so we can better obey the words and examples Jesus set for us. That is, that we may become the servant of God that Jesus wants. Remember, Jesus will never tell us to accept, believe, or do anything contrary to what the Bible teaches. He will never tell us to do anything harmful to others. He will show us how to love others as He loves us. With many trying to deceive us in these last days, we need to understand and practice prayerful submission to Jesus and His Word.

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