



Grain

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony." –Mahatma Gandhi

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:1 and 8-10

Thoughts by Reverend James Lynch, Town of Dunn, WI

Speak, for your servant is listening.

The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

It shouldn't be that hard to listen to what God wants of their people in their world. It shouldn't be that hard to see what God wants of their people in their world. It shouldn't be but it can seem like it is almost impossible at times. There are so many competing words and visions. Especially words that we want to hear, visions we want to see because they fall in line with the way we think things ought to be.

Was it the word of the Lord that was rare or that the people were not listening, were indeed seeking out other words because those were more in line with what they wanted to hear? Was it that visions were not widespread or that the people were not looking for them, were actively trying to avoid them because of how they might have to change how they were living? We use the past tense for this, but the present is just as applicable.

The big question this passage lifts up is what does God want of us and when do they want it? A companion piece is how do we respond?

There is in this country today two large blocs of Christianity – with many smaller blocs swirling in their wake to be sure, but still aligning themselves with one of the two.

One is bent on building a power base in this world to force its belief system on everyone everywhere, excluding everyone who doesn't respond "appropriately"? Is that the word God wants them to hear? The vision God wants them to see?

One is bent on reminding everyone everywhere that God is and always has been the power base, that God is and always has been the most inclusionary of entities. It's God word that needs to be heard. It's God's vision that needs to be seen. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,
Pastor Jim