

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Listening to God is far more important than giving him your ideas.
—Frank Laubach

The little boy Samuel had been living in the temple ever since his mother Hannah had delivered him into the watchful care of the priest, Eli. There must have been days when the young Samuel wondered what his mother had gotten him into. He was in training to become a full-time servant of God, but not once had he perceived God's presence in the temple or God's purpose for his life. Samuel had been dedicated to God, but where was God?

Good mentor that he was, Eli gives Samuel three definite things to do so that he may be ready for a visit from God: "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening'" (v. 9). Look at this advice carefully.

LIE DOWN: Samuel is much like the rest of us. He is so busy running around that he hardly knows where he is going. Eli's advice to "lie down" is a way of saying, "Let go and let God. Relax. Surrender to a force bigger than you."

LISTEN UP: The second part of Eli's advice to Samuel is implied when he begins to describe what Samuel should do "if he calls you." In order to hear that call, Samuel must be listening. In order for all of us to have a vision of God or to experience God's presence, we must use our ears.

TALK BACK: God waits for us to respond, to question, even challenge the divine word that comes to us. Because God wants a relationship with us, we must be able to understand God's will and perceive God's wisdom. We must talk back to God. Sometimes, this dialogue is nothing more than our consent — as Samuel utters when the word of the Lord finally comes to him. Sometimes it is a far more interactive, problematic conversation — as it was with Job, Moses, Jonah or Jeremiah.

God offers us a new way of seeing, of envisioning the world. The greatest vision God sent us is Jesus Christ. In Christ's resurrection we are assured God's presence is frequent, that it is continually with us in this world.

In relationship with Christ, we can be assured that Eli's advice still holds. For in Christ, we can trust God enough to lie down, listen up and talk back.

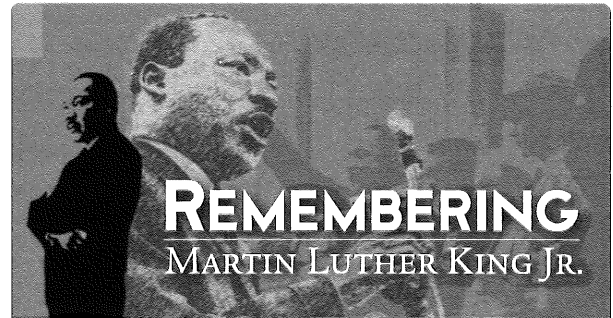
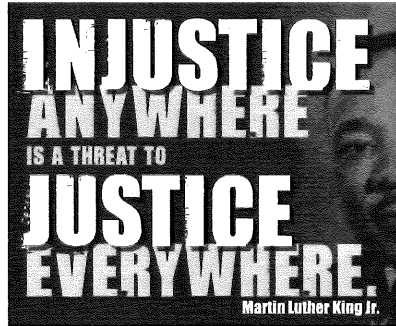
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Prayer: O God, how easy it is to get so busy with life, that we don't have time to sit still and listen for what the Spirit may be saying. Calm me down, God. Speak to me in the stillness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday: Matthew 1
- Monday: Matthew 2
- Tuesday: Matthew 3-4
- Wednesday: Matthew 5
- Thursday: Matthew 6
- Friday: Matthew 7
- Saturday: Psalms 2-3



CLARITY CRISIS

DIRECTIONS: Write a word to fit each definition. Then, transfer the letters to the numbered boxes.

A large, dangerous sea creature with a fin on its back

15 20 5 23 3

A place to shop

8 7 1 16

A red vegetable

9 4 14 21

To work hard, sweating

10 11 2 6

A shack

13 18 12

To grow old

17 19 22

THE BEATITUDES

S W B I N R U O M H Y C U N X
 W D L D N C O M F O R T E D D
 N E V A E H Z T E S D R O O P
 L R E A B L E S S E D G K V M
 X U U Z N K L R M L K O N W I
 B P X D B P E I I K Q Z Y I I
 Z M Z Z D G B H F T E R N V K
 L M M Y N F C T Y B S T Z W O
 V K H U N H C R B W M B V Z I
 H D H M A B Q A Q T N P A X H
 O J J S H S A E V Y W P F O X
 W L W E V J Z H L J E X F Z Y
 S I A Q M B Y S B C U S L W E
 T A I H C M W E H Q H J M S I
 V W S F T L E R E A C Y J P E

Directions: Look for these words from the Matthew 5 reading listed above: blessed, children, comforted, earth, filled, God, heart, heaven, hunger, inherit, kingdom, meek, mourn, poor, pure, thirst.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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Answers:
 shark,
 mall,
 beet,
 toil,
 hut,
 age.
 Like a
 lamb to
 the
 slaughter.

