

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021- SECOND SUNDAY OF THE EPIPHANY

1 SAMUEL 3:1-20 (NRSV) SAMUEL'S CALLING AND PROPHETIC ACTIVITY

Samuel – “God hears” or “Hear God” – cf. Ishmael – cf. Deuteronomy 6: 4 – the Shema – “Hear, O Israel”

1 Samuel 1 and 2 – God hears / 1 Samuel 3 – Hear God

1 Samuel 1: 20 – Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

1 Samuel 2 – Song of Hannah / cf. Luke 1 – Song of Mary

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

Does it ever seem to you like the word of the Lord is rare in our day, and visions are not widespread?

³Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

⁶The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

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.’”

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

PSALM 139 (NRSV) THE INESCAPABLE GOD To the leader. Of David.

Song – “Search me, O God, and know my heart today”

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret.

¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12 - 20 (NRSV) GLORIFY GOD IN BODY AND SPIRIT

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own. ²⁰ For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

What difference should these two verses make in what you do and how you live?

JOHN 1:35-51 (NRSV) THE FIRST DISCIPLES OF JESUS

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"

These are the same words that John used to describe Jesus when Jesus came to be baptized – "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1: 29)

³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see."

Here we have the first of three times when the Gospel writer translates a Hebrew word. What does that say about whom the Gospel was first written to?

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

I wonder how Andrew felt about always being called "Simon Peter's brother."

Typical Andrew – always bringing someone to Jesus.

Simon vs. Cephas/Peter. Jesus knew who Peter was. He also knew what he could and would become.

In next week's Gospel in Mark 1 Simon Peter and Andrew are back at work at the Sea of Galilee.

When Jesus calls them and they follow Jesus, they are following someone they have already met.

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me."

"Come and see" – "Follow me"

What are your church's "Come and see" ministries? What are the "Follow me" ministries?

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."

⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

What do you think about Nathanael's attitude towards Nazareth?

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?"

Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰ Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."

Two possible meanings of "I saw you under the fig tree." Cf. Psalm 139