



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 3

Lesson Title: God Wants to Lead You

Take Home Point: We can listen to God through his word.

Warm-Up:

In Robert Louis Stevenson's book *Treasure Island*, a boy receives a treasure map from a dying pirate. With a natural desire for adventure and riches, the boy finds some help to get him to the island to recover the treasure, and, of course, there are many adventures, difficulties, and scares along the way. But when those who have the map get to the island, what do they do with it? Do they ignore it? Do they give it a quick scan and try to make their own way? No! They carefully read it and follow the instructions to the buried hoard. They know that to recover the treasure they must listen to what old Captain Flint wrote on the map.

Read: 1 Samuel 2:22-3:21

Observation (What happened?):

Why did God promise disaster on Eli's sons and descendants?

When Samuel told the Lord he was listening, what was the message God gave the boy?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the word of the Lord was rare in those days?

What might Samuel's thoughts and emotions have been when he heard what God intended for Eli and his family?

Insight:

So, what kind of news did the Lord give Samuel when he first spoke to the boy? Words of assurance and hope? Not at all. The first news Samuel received was not good. God told him of all the things that were going to happen to Eli's house because of his sin and the sins of his sons. This is an important lesson for us. When God speaks to us through the Bible, it is not always "sweetness and light." If it is, then we are not really paying attention to all of his message for us. God's word has a lot to say about repentance by turning away from our former lifestyle. It says a lot about punishment for sin, loving those who hate you, repaying evil with good, exercising spiritual discipline for the sake of our souls, and lots of other difficult things. It is when we are open to all of God's word that we reap full benefit of his wonderful promises.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are the ways God speaks to you today? What was his most recent message?

If you don't have a regular (daily) time alone with God to speak with him and listen to him, start the habit this week. (There are a number of short and easy resources to help you in bookstores.)