

## BE RICH TO OTHERS - PART 2

Scripture used: [1 Samuel 3:8-10 \(NIV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

The second sermon of the “Be Rich to Others” series focused on the relationship between hearing from God and serving. As we know from [John 3:16 \(NIV\)](#), God’s love is more than generous: it’s extraordinary, extravagant, and redemptive. One of the characteristics of love is that it is out of the ordinary; love takes us by surprise and shows us that we matter. An essential part of love is God’s desire to communicate with us and lead us and guide us, just like loving parents don’t just take care of their children from afar, but they delight in interacting and communicating with their children. This is the heart of God as our loving Father. Samuel shows us how important it is to recognize God’s voice in our lives, and when we hear His voice, our response is to be open to serve. We should not treat God as our servant or our instrument, but rather, we offer ourselves as servants of God to be His instruments of love and care in this world.

### KEY POINTS

- 1) Sometimes feelings masquerade as love, but they are not love. This is broadly the case for any kind of oppressive or overly sexual relationship, or one that thrives on control and manipulation. True love for one another is about laying down your life literally and figuratively. God loves us because we matter to Him. God loves others through us because they matter too. God wants to communicate with us and is always listening.
- 2) The story of Samuel is one of a providential son who is given up to the temple (and Eli) as sacrifice for the blessing of his conception and birth. Samuel is indeed special but has no relationship, or communication with God, until God calls out to him. Eli teaches Samuel how to listen to God, and how to respond to God with humility and a desire to obey ([1 Samuel 3:10](#)).
- 3) God can speak in different ways. God speaks through Scripture, but He can also speak through His Holy Spirit in other ways. Sometimes we may hear an audible voice. Sometimes we may feel a strong prompting or leading from God. Sometimes God may speak to us through other people or circumstances. God’s voice in our lives will always align with the heart of God’s grace and truth in Scripture.
- 4) We must always remember that God is persistent in speaking to us (see [1 Samuel 3](#)) and that God will confirm the ways He speaks to us ([1 Samuel 3:19-21](#)). So, in order to lean into how we feel God leading, we don’t need absolute certainty. We can say, “I think God is speaking to me”, or “I believe God has said to me” and then test and seek confirmation by taking initial steps of faith to pursue what God has put on our hearts. This is humility; God’s intent is never that those who hear His voice “lord it over” others or feel superior or infallible. We are broken people and can only claim to be servants of the Lord. God confirms us in that status, and lavishes His grace upon us.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Has there been a time in your life when you have heard from God, or sensed God leading you in a direct way? Describe to others in your group how this has worked in your life, or if you are skeptical of hearing from God, discuss this with the group as well. Does knowing that God is a loving Father affect whether we expect to hear from God? Is it appropriate to expect God to speak into our lives regularly?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Discuss [1 Samuel 3](#) as a group. Consider what we learn from Samuel about hearing from God. Consider God’s persistence and confirmation, and the unique role that Eli played in helping Samuel to recognize the voice of God. What lessons from this passage help us be more receptive and sensitive to God’s voice in our lives today? Are there daily practices that would be helpful to attune our hearts and minds to God’s voice in our lives?
- 3) **DO** - Pastor Hurmon encouraged us to listen for God’s voice and then, in faith, take action (“execute”). Spend some time this week in a posture of listening for God’s voice, perhaps by spending additional time in Scripture, prayer, or simply listening for God’s prompting as you go about your day.