

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 1.10.24 (for 1.14.24)

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called 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. ⁶And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose 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. ⁸And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose 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 hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

- 1) We learn that "the word of the Lord was rare in those days." What does this information tell us about the state of things?
- 2) Where is Samuel when we meet him in this text? What significance does this have?
- 3) What do you notice about Samuel and Eli's relationship in this scene?

Second Reading: Psalm 139:1-10

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 afar.

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

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

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

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

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

- 1) This psalm speaks of God's personal presence, insight, and knowledge of us.
What is comforting about this? What is not so comforting about this?
- 2) How has God's loving care in your life affected you when life has been harder?
- 3) What do David's words teach us about life with God?

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael said to

him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man

- 1) Before Jesus calls Nathanael, we see Nathanael expose a stereotype he believed in his culture. What are some stereotypes we find in our culture, particularly towards Christians?
- 2) Jesus has great knowledge of Nathanael, and even points out Nathanael's learnedness. How does this affect Nathanael?
- 3) Jesus calls Nathanael to follow Him with a promise to fully know Him. How does this promise apply to all who trust and follow Jesus?