

## **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 01-17-2021**

In the first reading today we heard the Lord calling out to Samuel.

We also heard that Samuel didn't realize that it was the Lord who was speaking to him...he thought it was Eli, the high priest, summoning him.

Even though Samuel had been diligently preparing himself for service to the Lord by sleeping in the temple next to the Ark of the Covenant and receiving intense instruction from Eli we heard that he was not yet familiar with the ways of the Lord.

Interestingly, even Eli, who was Samuel's teacher, was slow to understand that it was the Lord who was calling out to the young man. It took three tries before even Eli realized it.

These were very holy, devout and prayerful men and yet they were not immediately able to discern the voice of God.

This is an important lesson for all of us here.

There are many competing voices in the world today so hearing the authentic voice of the Lord can be very challenging in the midst of all the commotion.

Unless we regularly turn off the noise of the world, spend some time in quiet prayer and rely on the perennial teachings of the Catholic Church we risk confusing the Lord's voice with that of the world.

Does anyone here really think that they are holier, more devout and more prayerful than Samuel or Eli who weren't immediately able to discern the voice of the Lord?

But there is one scary difference. We actually have an edge of over Samuel and Eli because we were baptized and confirmed, we've received numerous Holy Communions and we've had multiple opportunities to meet Christ the teacher in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Like Saint Andrew and Saint Peter in the gospel today we have been personally called to take some time to leave the world behind and spend that time alone with the teacher.

Jesus has personally equipped us to hear and follow him.

So let's examine ourselves today and see if we are truly following Jesus and the teachings of his Catholic Church or have we compromised and adopted too much the ways of the world.

Only the former leads to eternal life.