

I Call You with Calling Today!

In the middle of December, we started talking about Hineni; Here I am, Lord! Send me. Hineni, is a way of expressing a total readiness to give oneself, it is an offer of total availability. It is saying, I am fully present in this moment in time and poised to take on my assignment. It is saying in each step and each moment, “Here am I, send me!” When one is moved to respond in this matter it marks a transitional point in the individual’s life. This is not a casual agreement it is a covenantal pledge.

We likened it to the resolve of countless American men, on the morning of December 8, 1941. Who selflessly stood in lines that stretched for city blocks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. As ordinary citizens became soldiers, they were declaring, “Hineni! Here I am, send me!”

Isaiah (Isaiah 6) saw the Lord high and lifted up and after being cleansed with the live coal from the altar, declared, “Here I am, send me!” With that a scribe had made the transition to a prophet.

Abraham, had a similar encounter. It was requested of him to sacrifice his only son as a burnt offering (Genesis 22). With the loss of his son would also come the loss of the only visible means of God’s promise coming to pass. In this testing from God, Abraham, answered, “Hineni. Here I am. I am present and willing to accept the assignment that you have for me.”

As Abraham was about to complete his assignment, the angel of the Lord called out to him not to harm Isaac. When Abraham looked up he saw a ram stuck in the thicket. God, Himself had provided the sacrifice. From this we learned that God too is Hineni. He is present in the moment with us. Whether it be the testing of trials or joyful moments of victory, God is with us. Never greater is this seen than in Emmanuel, God with us. Jesus, God’s own Son, was provided as the sacrifice for mankind. God is here today. Whatever challenge or joy you face His desire is to be present and in the moment with you!

In November, we talked about a man that God raised up as a deliverer of His people from the bondage of Egypt. That man was Moses. His name means, “drawn out.”

As an infant, he was drawn out of the Nile River by Pharaoh’s daughter. He was raised as her own, in Pharaoh’s courts. However, that same infant was drawn out by another. God Himself, had drawn Moses out from all of his countrymen to be a deliverer.

Moses spends 40 years learning and working in Pharaoh’s methods. For his trouble he ends up on the wrong side of the wilderness, tending his father in laws herds for another 40 years. Then Exodus chapter 3!

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”
And Moses said, “Here I am.”

40 years in Pharaoh’s court. 40 years on the wrong side of the wilderness and God calls, “Moses! Moses!” from within a burning bush. And an old man, who presumably had missed his call, and squandered his opportunity to be what God had created him for, comes upon a transitional moment in his life and says, “Hineni!”

Now, I don’t know if that is good for any of you? But it is good for me! However, you have come to the place that you are today, God is calling you! Today is a transitional day in your life. Your name is being called. And you can respond, “Hineni!”

Turn to 1 Samuel 3 with me. I want us to see that sometimes in these transitional callings, men are used to bring others to a point of realizing the moment that the Lord has set before them.

Samuel is a young boy serving in the temple under Eli. It was a dark time in the history of God's people. Verse one states that the word of the Lord, that is revelation, was rare and that there were not many visions. It is in this time of darkness that a Sovereign God calls in the night hours, "Samuel!"

As of yet, Samuel did not know the voice of the Lord, so he runs to Eli and responds, "Here I am." Eli having not called for the boy tells him to go back to bed. This happens three times and Eli came to realize that it is the Lord Who is calling the boy and tells Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if He calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'"

Read from verse 10 with me:

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

¹¹ And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

Drop down to verse 19.

¹⁹ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and He let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there He revealed Himself to Samuel through His word.

While spoken by Samuel to Eli, this Hineni moment, reveals Samuel's willingness to say, "Here I am, Lord. Whatever you require of me, I am present and available to you." From this moment forward Samuel eclipsed his mentor and the Lord revealed Himself to a young boy and as verse 20 says, "all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord." This is a transitional moment, which forges a boy into a prophet!

I think of the story of Esther. A young girl who comes to a royal position as an evil plot is devised to destroy her people. In chapter 4 of the book which bears her name, her uncle Mordecai calls her to action in service of Almighty God. It is an obvious dilemma. While she is queen, she does not have free access to the king. Even for her, if she entered without being summoned, the punishment would likely be death.

Verse 14 is one of my favorite verses in all of Scripture. Mordecai calls Esther to action with a stern and sober warning:

¹⁴ ... if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther, through the confrontation of her uncle's words, recognizes God's positioning of her life and His calling for such a time as this! By her actions that follow in the verse to come, we see she has passed a transformative moment in her life. She has said, "Here I am. Yes, Lord I will answer the call." In this a young girl becomes God's means of delivering His people! Esther is "Hineni."

As I look at Isaiah, Abraham, Moses and Esther, I see individuals who are called. As I look out upon you this morning I see individuals who are called! I see Hineni moments waiting to be fulfilled. I see transitional moments about to come to pass. I see a natural people being readied to become a supernatural people. I see natural use and direction changed to supernatural use and direction.

I see a people for who nothing is impossible. And it is with calling that I call you to come to the service of the Lord today. It is with calling that I call you to the revelation of God through His word. It is with calling that I call you to say, “Hineni” to whatever the Lord would ask of you. It is with a desire of intimacy that I call you to the Table of the Lord this morning. And yet, you wonder, “How do I come to such a Table?” The only way that you possibly can, “Just as you are, come. The Lord is calling you today!”