

# The Second Sunday of Epiphany

January 15, 2012

*1 Samuel 3:1-10(11-20)*

*Psalms 139:1-5, 12-17*

*1 Corinthians 6:12-20*

*John 1:43-51*

*In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

“Speak, for your servant is listening.” I have long thought that God is speaking to us all the time. If we fail to hear what God tells us, it’s not His fault, it’s ours. We don’t, or perhaps can’t, listen. This is a very noisy world. The problem is to hear what God tells us through the cacophony of our world and our lives.

Perhaps we need to break through that noise if we are to hear Him. But silence is a rare and precious thing. Let me tell you a story.

Years and years ago, I was in the process to become ordained a Deacon of the church. I had one final meeting with the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry for approval; the meeting was at Honey Creek. I was on active duty at Fort Gordon in Augusta. We met on Saturday afternoon; it had begun to rain and the temperature was obviously dropping before I could begin the drive back to Augusta.

It continued to rain until I reached Statesboro; then it turned to sleet. North from Statesboro to Augusta, it was a two-lane road through what was then a pretty vacant countryside. As I drove on, I noticed two things: first, that the sleet was accumulating on the roadside and,

second, that I had not seen another car for at least twenty minutes. It was getting dark, and the headlights were reflected off the icing road.

It's safe to say that I was present in the moment. My entire world, my complete consciousness, was in that car focused on that icy road on that night.

Then a voice said, "Do you think I brought you this far to abandon you on a road in Georgia?" Did I actually hear it? I don't know. But it was there, and it filled that car; I had a profound sense of being cared for and protected; a profound sense of the presence of God.

I wonder how often God speaks and I fail to hear Him. I really doubt that He speaks to us only at times of stress. How often do I, like our reading from Samuel, mistake what God says for some other voice? There are so many other voices filling our minds, telling us what is right and what we should do. How do we discern what is authentically that of God?

Perhaps the answer for me on that icy road, and the answer that has remained with me for many, many years, is that sense of a caring presence, the sense that we are never, never alone.

*In His Holy Name.*