Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.

Homily, 13rd January, 2016

1Sam 3,1-10.19-20   **Father G. Paparone o.p.**

One of the most famous pages in the Old Testament: the call of the great Prophet Samuel, who will then consecrate King David.

I would like to share with you my thinking about this seeming contradiction in this inexperienced youth between his inability to listen, see and understand the presence of God and His call immediately.

Both Eli, the great priest who is teaching to Samuel, and the young man Samuel are in the house. Samuel does not know almost anything, and the Lord calls him just while he is sleeping.

This fact reminds me the Psalm words: *For the Lord will* give to his beloved sleep.

Sometimes we strongly engage in the prayer, in the meditation, looking for a sign, a proof, a word; we would like the Lord talking to us, showing us the way and we only get silence instead; we find that our wishes and hopes break against a barrier.

Instead *For the Lord will* give to his beloved sleep.

Why does the Lord reveal His presence while Samuel is sleeping, in such a discreet and soft way?

The Lord knows that Samuel will be able to listen to His Word, he knows that his heart is open, as He will know then that Maria's open heart will be able to embrace His Word, as well as Peter's and the other apostles' heart who will receive the call of the Lord.

Dear, **the Word of God tells us that we only have to get worried about one thing: wishing to meet the Lord, being able to live His Word**; if we are truly open, God will find a secure and effective way to talk to us, exactly as with Samuel did.

While he was sleeping, He called him three times, but at the beginning nor could Samuel understand the silent, mysterious, discreet Presence which was almost confused with the usual experience.

So, if we are open, the Lord will find the way to let us understand, to make our comprehension sure, and we will be able to understand that He talks to us and leads us; the important thing is that we really wish to put His Word into practice.

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