

## CCH sermon 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019 1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

### “Speak O Lord”

#### SERMON INTRO

Pls open bibles page 273- 1 Samuel 3.

#### 3v1- Word of the Lord was rare

#### 3v21- 4v1- And Samuel’s word (which is God’s Word) came to all Israel.

▲ Madagascar 2 – before and after the water comes

This story starts with before, and ends with after.

Tells the story of how God’s word comes...

- Wonderful story we’re going to hear
  - Acted out with the help of some friends
  - in 3 stages
    - from beginning with a drought- no word,
    - dam breaks, and
    - then by end God’s word comes ,
  - and a lesson for all of us...
    - Listen carefully to the Bible

#### \*\*SKETCH 1: READING 1 SAMUELv1-9

- Thanks for that.
- 1000 BC many years ago
- Time of turnaround for God’s people
  - 1 Factor: new leadership Samuel replaces Eli & family
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Factor: coming of God’s Word.
- But starts **Rare**
  - V1 Word of the Lord rare
  - No visions- vision came to prophet bringing Word.
- Now it’s quite amusing
  - God speaking to Samuel.
  - Young lad in tent of God’s meeting house
  - Doesn’t realise God speaking to him.
  - Thinks its Eli!

- Do you know what this is: Rubik’s cube.
  - I tell you have to be patient.
  - Spent several hours on youtube at in laws trying to solve it
  - Times I wanted to give up, and chuck it in bin.
  - God is very patient with us.
- 3 times.
  - Samuel
  - Here I am
  - No- not me- Go back to bed! Middle of the Night.
- Don’t you think God is rather patient.
  - With Eli!
  - With Samuel.
    - Just young inexperienced lad, never heard God call before, got
  - And he’s patient with us.
- Now we are not Samuel.
  - There’s no promise that God will speak to us directly
  - And if he does we might not know it is him
  - But he does speak to us in his Word the Bible
  - And Samuel = prophet whose words went into the Bible.
- God speaks to us
  - And he does it very patiently.
  - Sometimes we don’t listen straight away
  - Says in 2 Peter 3 that “God is patient with us not wanting any should perish”
  - We must listen carefully to his word the Bible.
  
  - How kind God is to be patient with us
  - With me!
  - But let’s make that a reason we read the Bible extra carefully and find out what he’s saying to us.
- ➡ New: Jesus. Not complicated- friend could help.  
Wonderful guide book. God is patient. Listen carefully to Bible.

Well let's see what happens next.

### **\*\*SKETCH 2: READING 1 SAMUEL v10-18**

- Thanks for that.
- Wow- God's word came, finally Samuel listening v10.
- but it wasn't very easy message
- Anyone know what this plant is? Plant nettle
- God's word to Samuel was painful.
  - Message that his father figure- away from real dad
  - Was going to have terrible judgement in his family
    - Saw last time- corrupt, greedy, immoral.
    - They rejected the sacrifices that would forgive.
- Phew! What a message.
  - Makes ears tingle- shiver down spine!
  - Must have slept badly that night
  - No wonder Samuel didn't want to tell
  - Did you see him opening the doors
  - But Eli made him tell it. Told it all.
- God's word isn't always easy.
  - Sometimes contains painful message.
    - You need to stop what you are doing
    - Not every way leads to God. Only Jesus.
  - Yes wonderful good news, but need to hear
    - Sinners
    - God will judge those who don't repent
  - Please pray for me, and all who teach Bible
    - Not shy away from difficult bits.
- Surprising how Samuel responds.
  - V18
  - Is it good or bad?
  - Good- trusting God to be God.
  - Bad- could have turned himself and his sons away from what they were doing.

- God does keep his promises and next week see Eli,
  - And 2 sons the Hoph, the Phin
  - AND Phin's wife- killed on the same day.
- ☞ listen carefully.
  - Maybe someone here finds some things in Bible painful.
  - Difficult.
  - They are.
  - They challenge us.
  - But don't throw them out. God's Word.

Just a few verses left.

Before we do, sing a song about how God keeps his promises.

### **\*\*SONG: GOD HE ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES**

### **\*\*SKETCH 2: READING 1 SAMUEL v10-18**

- In these last verses see Word come to Samuel more permanently & powerfully
  - What started out as a trickle is now like a mighty waterfall.
  - Word has come to all Israel. All God's people.
  - They had a permanent prophet
  - New thing in the Bible hadn't happened in this way before that the everyday person could hear God's word
- And the Word has come permanently & powerfully to us in Jesus.
  - Hebrews 1:1
  - ☞ Most important thing you can ever do in life listen to Jesus in the Bible.
    - ☞ Come back to church
    - ☞ Read scrips
- Recap- God's word. Patiently, painfully, powerfully. Listen carefully. All read Hebrews 1:1-2 and Heb 2:1 together.