

## **SERMON JUNE 12 A LITTLE BOY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

### **I SAMUEL 3:1-21**

Today we begin the continuation of our summer series on the OT  
 In 2008 we looked at Genesis- Creation to the Commandments  
 In 2009 Exodus-Numbers-- Journey to the Promised land.  
 Last Summer Joshua-Judges-Ruth= Life in the Promised Land  
 Today we begin I and II Samuel: "ISRAEL'S GREAT KINGS"

Up to this point Israel has been led by prophets.  
 With Eli coming into power with his two  
 Evil son Hopni and Phinehas  
 People had gotten disgusted with the action of Eli's sons.  
 Profaning the holy things of the temple.  
 Disregarding the laws of God and  
 People wanted change

People want change when they are in pain.  
 People want change when things go wrong and they feel in despair.  
 People want change when they discover that change is possible.  
 There can be something different.

Like the wife who was telling her friend about the change in their house.  
 She said her husband had lost 50 pounds because things had gotten financially difficult.  
 So after eight years of being a housewife,  
 She had taken a job in a restaurant.  
 She said, "When I returned home after my first day at work, I gave my husband a big hug.  
 He seemed to cling to me longer than usual."  
 Finally she asked: "Did you really miss me that much, dear?"  
 "No," came the reply. "But you smell so much like pancakes that I hate to let you go."

None of us like to let go of the good things in life.  
 But one of the things missing from the life of the Israelites  
 Was God's Word.

### **In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. I Samuel 3:1**

## **WE LIVE IN A DAY WHEN THE WORD OF THE LORD IS RARE.**

It is a sad commentary on that day,  
 But it is a tragic commentary on our day  
 As we look around and see in our land,  
 That the Word of the Lord is rare.

Especially when everyone is calling for change.  
 When we need direction that is when we need guidance.  
 Without guidance we are like a ship adrift,  
 We are like an airliner lost.  
 Or a presidential party without a candidate.

The new iPhone company is in serious trouble.

Because the iPhone stores the location coordinates and  
Timestamps the owners movements of where we have been.

If you have an iPhone here today,  
It knows you've been in church.  
That's sure making Gods work a lot easier.

The problem is that most Americans don't want anybody knowing  
where they have been.  
Or what they been doing.

I don't think that's so bad,  
I'm only disappointed that they  
Can't tell me where I'm going.  
Wouldn't that be some phone.

Wouldn't that 'make counseling a lot easier.  
Instead of having to pull it out of some person if their  
A Christian or not.  
I just say "hand me your iPhone".  
I look at where they are going.  
To heaven-- oh good,  
To hell? WOOO  
Now that might get church attendance up.

We have a world full of people adrift  
Who know where they've been,  
But don't know where they are going.

**The word of the Lord is rare.**

If you think this is not true?  
look in the arena of marriage.

**Do you think the word of the Lord is rare.**

½ of all marriages end in divorce.

Our homes are being destroyed.

Our children are being lost.

Spouse are devastated or relieved by divorce,

While the children are frightened and confused.

**Because the word of the Lord is rare in marriage,**

Abandoned children face a greater risk to injury, asthma, headaches,

And speech defects

And 1 out of every 10 children will live through three or more

Divorces in their lives.

**Do you think THE word of the Lord is rare ---look at medicine.**

When Doctors and mothers choose

the sanctity of choice

Over the sanctity of life.

ignore the God's word and

1.37 million children are killed yearly in legal abortions.

3700 a day.

We wonder why were having earthquakes, tornados, tsunamis,  
Floods, and disease When their blood cries out to God from the ground?

**Do you think the word of the Lord is rare?**

When were dealing with therapeutic cloning which  
Can produces a body with exactly the same genetics  
And created organ transplants will not be rejected?

**Do you think the word of the Lord is rare,**

When Scholars and educators, seminary professors,  
no longer teach values or morals,  
They are like wolves in sheep clothing  
Teach every relationship is acceptable.  
Every lifestyle palatable  
And that any form of government and politics  
Social reform is acceptable as long as the rich keep giving to the poor.

**Do you think the word of the Lord is rare**

in the world of labor and business.  
When fraud in government, and  
The concern for the land and earth  
Superseded concern for its citizens.  
Even in the Dakota's  
we won't open a the flood gates on all of our dams,  
To prevent greater flooding of our homes and farms,  
Because it might affect some rare species of bird.

**Do you think the word of the Lord is rare in**

in world of counseling and psychology  
I recently took a 12 hour class on mental health first aid.  
Dealing with anxiety disorders, drug addiction, eating addiction,  
psychotic behavior, schizophrenia, drug abuse and violent behavior.  
We can talk about how to treat them physically,  
Counsel them mentally, and comfort them emotionally,  
But we never talked about healing them spiritually.  
That's a no no.  
Do you ever wonder why in our nation with  
Copies of the bible widely available.  
That there is no revival in our land.

**Yet the word of the Lord is not rare in some nations of the world.**

Northwest Ethiopia is seeing vast revival  
500 churches opening in 14 months.  
Because the government will donate the land for any church  
That reached 25 baptized members. (Christianity Today, June 2005, p.26).

Did you know that just a few years ago in 2005  
it was revealed that before Pope John Paul II died,  
He ushered Campus Crusade for Christ into Poland.  
Thanks to his efforts, hundreds of thousands of Polish youth  
have been exposed to the Gospel for the first time.

Campus Crusade for Christ also trained more  
 than 4,700 Russian school teachers how to teach  
 Christian values to elementary and high school students.  
 And – can you believe this –  
 They did this at the request of the Russian government.  
 Teaching them the same values that are outlawed in our schools!

Never has Gods Word been more abundantly available as it is today.  
 Yet in Washington DC,  
 In the decision making center of our nation  
 Where our founding forefathers instituted and created this great  
 Nation because the Word of God was written on their hearts.

the only place you can still find the word of God  
 is on the buildings our forefathers built.  
 It is time in Washington that we got the Word of God,  
 off of our buildings and back into our hearts.

### **The WORD of the Lord was rare, but ONE LITTLE BOY MADE A DIFFERENCE**

At the Jewish age of 12, Samuel  
 stepped up to become personally responsible  
 Ethically and morally for his behavior.  
 And became the son of the law.  
 And the prophet of the most high God.  
 Just because your 12 years old here today.  
 It does not give you license or excuse to be irresponsible  
 To your parents or your God.

**Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." I Samuel 3:4-6**

Three times it happened,  
 And Samuel didn't know it was the Lord.  
 Because the child was ignorant of God call.  
 Vs. 7 tells us the reason.

**(1 Sam 3:7) Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.**

Samuel's knowledge of God was immature because he was a child.  
 He did not yet have the kind of relationship with God  
 that marked the rest of his life.  
 So he mistook God's call for the prophet Eli's call.

This is a lesson for us to learn as parents.  
 That a child,  
 Left to his own devices,  
 Will never come to know or discern the voice of the Lord.

The same thing happens today when parents  
do not discipline their children.

Discipline is of the Lord.

If you and I do not make our children do the things that are right,

When they are small and in the moldable state,  
they will end up like Eli's sons.

Not just rebellious sons,

But evil son, blasphemous son and daughters

The English version says

**The Sons of Eli were sons of Belial, they knew not the Lord. I Samuel 2:12**

They were preacher's kids,

Raised in the temple or the church,

But they went from belief to Belial,  
the worship of a false God.

If we forget as parents our God given responsibility to

Train up a child in the way that they should go.

We become worse than an infidel in God's eyes.

Eli's son were only using their own wisdom

Instead of depending on God.

Eli has served God for 98 years,

And had judged Israel for over 40 years,

He may have been a great Prophet,

But he was a terrible Father.

And because he didn't persevere to the end.

His sons were killed in battle,

And he died when he fell over in his chair,

Breaking his neck because he was so fat.

Oh it is a warning to us.

Children need the guidance and direction of Christian parents.

To teach them how to listen,

How to hear the word of God, so

**<sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. I Sam. 3:8**

So Eli told Samuel,

**<sup>2</sup> So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.' I Samuel 3:9**

Thanks to Eli, when God did call him for a fourth time,

Samuel was able to discern the voice of God.

So step up parents.

The greatest calling you have is to your home.

So pray with your children.  
 read the bible stories,  
 Our grandchildren love books,  
 We read to them a lot, but when we read a story from the Bible,  
 We says: "This is a true story."  
 Because we want them to know  
 That God cares and shares his love with them.

**" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. <sup>10</sup> The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." I Samuel 3:9-10**

It was at this moment that a prophet of God was called.  
 And the Word of the Lord became known.

Don't let the world tell you a child can't know what  
 God wants them to be or do for their life vocation.

God called me into the ministry in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.  
 He confirmed it in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade,  
 And reaffirmed it in College,  
 And ordained it in Seminary.  
 Blessed it in ministry for over 40 years.

From that point just like Samuel, I too was the lord's man.  
 His whole life was focused around serving God.  
 He would not deter from it.  
 It doesn't mean he wasn't afraid because he was.

**<sup>15</sup> Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD . He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, I Samuel 3:15**

Once you decide to live for Jesus ,  
 Let me tell you will be tested.  
 12 year old Samuel was tested very quickly.

#### TEST OF THE PROPHET.

The test of the prophet is to never lie.  
 Tell the truth no matter what.  
 And what he speaks always comes to pass.  
 That's why we know that the May 21<sup>st</sup>. end of the world prophet was false.  
 A prophet of God is 100% all the time.

That morning Eli called him in and said:

**<sup>16</sup> "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am." <sup>17</sup> "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." I Samuel 3:16**

Samuel had a choice.  
He could lie.  
Or he could tell old Prophet Eli,  
That he and his sinful sons would die.  
Their reign was over.

**<sup>18</sup> So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD ; let him do what is good in his eyes." I Samuel 3:18**

There will be times when every Christian,  
Is called to share the word of God.  
Even when it confronts the world  
When it contradicts their friends.  
When it is politically incorrect.

But the word must be spoken  
In love respect and honor.  
As was the case with Samuel.  
Who became one of the greatest prophet of the Lord,  
And who was called by God to anoint the first King.

**<sup>19</sup> The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD . I Samuel 3:19-20**

You can make a difference.  
At whatever age you are.  
Will you step up and be the Lord's servant in your world?  
And come and worship with us the remainder of the summer  
As we hear the true stories of Israel's Great Kings?