

When God Speaks

1 Samuel 3:1-4:1a

When God wants to change a culture, he does it by raising up people and churches who hear his Word and faithfully proclaim it to others.

1. The word of the Lord was rare (3:1)
2. The Lord breaks the silence (3:2-14)
3. How shall we respond to the God who speaks? (3:15 – 4:1a)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What does it mean that “the word of the Lord was rare in those days”? (3:1) How does that compare to our day?
2. What do you think of the idea that the word of the Lord can become rare not only when the Lord isn’t giving it, but also when people are not receiving it? Do you think that it is true that we can lose our appetite for God’s Word? Why?
3. How would you describe your own appetite for God’s Word? How long could you go without the word of God in your life before you would miss it or notice it? Describe some ways you can grow your appetite for God’s Word.
4. According to v.7, why did Samuel not know that the Lord was calling him? Why do you think that it took Eli so many times before he perceived that the Lord was calling Samuel?
5. How is God’s patience displayed toward Samuel in this passage? How do we see God’s patience displayed toward us in Christ?
6. What was the message that the Lord spoke to Samuel? Why do you think Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli? (v.11-15)
7. What truths about God’s word and His purposes might help overcome any fears that we might have in speaking God’s truth to others? How do these same truths impact how we view God’s Word applied to our own lives?