

An outline of a sermon by the Reverend Dr. Colton M. Smith on the Second Sunday after the Epiphany, January 15, 2012 at the Chapel of St. Mark in Port Royal, South Carolina.

The call of God

Text: 1 Samuel 3:4 and John 1:46

Eternal God, ruler of the universe, may we, who wait to hear your word, always be ready to answer your call and to follow where He has led the way. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Have you ever heard the "voice" of God? Has God ever spoken to you? Let me tell you about four events in which God did speak.

1. We are told in 1 Samuel: **THE WORD OF THE LORD WAS RARE IN THOSE DAYS; VISIONS WERE NOT WIDESPREAD. (1 Samuel 3:1)** How about today? **(Describe the relationship between Samuel and Eli.)** Three times the scene is repeated. Dramatic effect! A testing? Samuel trusted Eli. Eli is a mentor for Samuel. He discerned God's call to the boy. Is there an Eli in your life? A mentor, a person whom you trust!

2. The Psalmist reminds us: **LORD, YOU HAVE SEARCHED ME OUT AND KNOWN ME. (Psalm 139:1)** God is not lost We are! **JESUS FOUND PHILIP AND SAID TO HIM, "FOLLOW ME." (John 1:43)** **(Describe the relationship between Philip and Jesus)** What are your expectations?

3. Nathanael was more questioning. **CAN ANYTHING GOOD COME FROM NAZARETH? (John 1:46)** **(Describe the relationship between Philip and Nathanael)** Philip gives the only response that would satisfy. **COME AND SEE. (John 1:46)**

4. What about the fourth event of God's calling? I believe that I was called by God to the priesthood in Christ's church. There were several Elies and Philipses in my past. **(Description of some of the mentors in Dr. Smith's life.)** God often speaks to us through others. People who have pointed the way to Christ. People who see in others, the manifestation of God.

What about you? Who have been your guides to a deeper relationship with God? Again what about you? What young people look to you for guidance? What pathways can you show to your friends?

Christ is the light of the world. If this be true, then we are the torches. We are the physical material in which the light is ignited. We are the fuel for the fire of divine love. But God must strike the flame! God must call us into service.

Let us pray:

Living God, you have revealed your Son as the Messiah. May we hear his word and follow it, and live as children of light. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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