

# Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

## Confirmations – Swaziland

### 15 January 2012

---

#### **1 Samuel 3: 1-10**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. <sup>2</sup>At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;<sup>3</sup>the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD called, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ and he said, ‘Here I am!’<sup>5</sup>and ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call; lie down again.’ So he went and lay down.<sup>6</sup>The LORD called again, ‘Samuel!’ Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ But he said, ‘I did not call, my son; lie down again.’<sup>7</sup>Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.<sup>8</sup>The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, ‘Here I am, for you called me.’ Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.<sup>9</sup>Therefore Eli said to Samuel, ‘Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup>Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20** <sup>12</sup>‘All things are lawful for me’, but not all things are beneficial. ‘All things are lawful for me’, but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>‘Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food’, and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, ‘The two shall be one flesh.’ <sup>17</sup>But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## **John 1: 35-42**

<sup>35</sup>The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup>and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’<sup>37</sup>The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup>When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’<sup>39</sup>He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup>One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.<sup>41</sup>He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup>He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

- Confirmation – as it says in ABP – the individual makes the response of faith, an act of commitment to Christ, by renewing baptismal promises.
- It takes place in the presence of the Bishop, who represents the whole Church – that we are part of the faith of the apostles, which the Bishops in particular are responsible for upholding.

- Confirmation is about being not just an individual faithful Christian, but also part of the body of Christ, part of God's One, Holy, Apostolic, Church.
- NB it is a 'response' – the initiative lies with God. First, God calls – as he called Samuel.
- In confirmation we say 'Here I am, Lord – speak, your servant is listening.' We commit ourselves to live whatever life God calls us to.
- Here too, we are responding to God's initiative, for, as the APB reminds us, in confirmation, I pray that each of you will receive the strengthening gift of the Holy Spirit.
- In this way, you are both commissioned and empowered to live the life to which God calls all his children – a life of worship, witness and service – but also the particular life to which God calls each one of us individually.
- I never thought I would be a priest, let alone an archbishop!

- Worship – developing the relationship with God. Eucharist, daily prayer and reading the Bible etc
- Witness – declaring our faith by the totality of our lives: our attitudes, actions, words.
- We need to walk the walk, as well as talk the talk – this is what 1 Cor 6 is about. To show others that it is cool to be ‘holy’. And it is not for sissies, it takes guts.
- Service – to show to others, especially those in need, the love, the compassion of Jesus, but also to declare his judgement, his justice, where these are missing.
- NB We are not called to ‘be Jesus’ (as in ‘what would Jesus do?’). He alone is Saviour, and he has done all that needs to be done to overcome all evil, death.
- But we are to reveal Jesus to others, and point others to Jesus, through our lives.
- And if we are shy – we too can say ‘Come and see’ as Jesus did to John the Baptist’s disciples; as Andrew did to Simon Peter.