

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Hebrews 11:32 “For the time would fail me to tell of... Samuel and the prophets”

**Quote:** “I am only one, but I am one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something; What I can do, I ought to do; And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do.” [Attributed to several sources]

**S**amuel’s birth was a result of his mother’s fervent prayers. She said, “‘For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.’ So they worshiped the LORD there.”<sup>1</sup> And the child Samuel grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men. He stood in sharp contrast to Eli, the priest, and his wicked sons. We read that “the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD.” They made a mockery of the priesthood “Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. But Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.”<sup>2</sup>

In his old age, Eli rebuked the sins of his sons, but it was to no avail. The Bible states that they did not heed the voice of their father, because the LORD desired to kill them.” The Scriptures say of *the child Samuel (that he) grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.*<sup>3</sup> God said to Eli, “Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.’ But now the LORD says: ‘Far be it from Me; for *those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.*’<sup>4</sup>

One night God spoke to Samuel who thought it was Eli calling him. After the third time that Samuel came to Eli, the priest realized that it was God speaking to the boy. Eli said, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’”<sup>5</sup> God told him of the fearful judgement that lay ahead for Eli’s family. At Eli’s

insistence, Samuel told him of God’s coming judgment. “Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.” He preached God’s Truth, “and all Israel... knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of the LORD.”<sup>4</sup>

In time, Israel’s sinful practices brought about defeat at the hands of the Philistines. Eli and his sons died and the ark of God was captured. Times were indeed grim. “Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, ‘If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.’ So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. And Samuel said, ‘Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.’ So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, ‘We have

## Samuel’s Worthy Service

sinned against the LORD.’ And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.... So the

children of Israel said to Samuel, ‘Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us from the hand of the Philistines.’ And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.... So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines *all the days of Samuel.*”

One man, consecrated by God to a life of obedient and honorable service, made an impact upon thousands. Like Samuel, Christians must have the attitude of “Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.” We must ever keep at the forefront of our thoughts that those who honor Him, He will honor, and those who despise Him, He will lightly esteem!”<sup>4</sup> For the glory of God and the good of others, we must demonstrate obedient faith through a honorable life of worthy service!

1 | Sam.1:27-28 2 2:12, 17-18 3 2:22-26 4 2:30 5 3:9-21 6 7:3-5