

## **Samuel, the One Who Lived a Life of Faithfulness (1 Samuel 2:12-18, 26, 35; 7:3-6; 12:3, 19-25)**

### **Introduction**

Christian life is a life of flowing against the current. It is easy to go along with the current, but it is extremely difficult to go against the current.

There was a man who stood against the current of times, and served the Lord faithfully, and that man was Samuel.

- After Joshua, for around 300 years, it was the period of Judges, and Judges 21:25 says, “In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
- The social, political, and the religious systems were very corrupt.
- The corruption was so much vivid in the priesthood of Israel as we read in the early chapters of 1 Samuel that exposes the corruption of the priesthood.
- In the midst of such a spiritual declension, God raised a spiritual family, the family of Elkanah and Hannah (1 Sam 1:3).
- The Lord blessed them with a son, and whose name was Samuel, and he was to change the destiny of Israel—leading the nation back to Jehovah.

One godly family and one godly man can make a great impact in the church and in the society for the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Today we live in a society that generation has turned its back toward God.
- We are to make a spiritual impact.

How would we do it? We learn two things from the life of Samuel:

### **1. Serving with a Contrast (1 Samuel 2:12-18, 26, 35)**

The family of Eli has a tragic story—Eli’s sons were described as “sons of belial.” The term literally means “worthless men.” This term was used in the Old Testament to describe the wickedness of the people, and later the Jewish writers used this term to refer to Satan.

- Their wickedness was described in 1 Sam 2:12-17.
- But there is a contrast in verses 18-26.
- The contrast in this section is between the wickedness and selfishness of the sons of Eli and the faithfulness of Samuel.
- As a result, the Lord raised a faithful priesthood through Samuel.

Hudson Taylor said, “We are not only to renounce evil, but to manifest the truth. We tell people the world is vain; let our lives manifest that it is so. We tell them that our home is above and that all these things are transitory. Does our dwelling look like it? O to live consistent lives.”

### **2. Serving with a Consecration (1 Samuel 7:3-6; 12:3, 19-25)**

The difference in Samuel’s life was a single minded devotion to God (1 Sam 7:3-6).

- His life was a testimony of such a devotion to God (12:3)

- “It is not great talents not great learning nor great preachers that God needs, but men great in holiness, great in faith, great in love, great in fidelity, great for God—men always preaching by holy sermons on the pulpit, by holy lives out of it. These can mould a generation for God.” E M Bounds

This was Paul’s testimony too (Acts 20:19-34).

Samuel calls the people to follow his very example (12:19-25).

- Requirement in service (v 20)
- Reason for service (v 22)
- Regret in service (v 25)

## **Conclusion**

Romans 12:1-2