

Be the Example in Faith like Samuel

1 Samuel

Example is defined as “a person or thing regarded in terms of their fitness to be imitated or the likelihood of their being imitated.”

Faith is defined in the Bible – Hebrews 11:1 – believing in something you cannot see.

Samuel means “asked of God.”

He is of Levitical parents – 1 Chronicles 6:33-38.

He is the last judge, first prophet, and founder of the monarchy.

1. The Call – 1 Samuel 3

Obey in Faith

1 – young child

2 – Eli an older man

3-4 – 1st call from God

5 – thought it was Eli

6 – 2nd call

7 – the last time this would be said of him; Proverbs 22:16

8 – 3rd call

9 – a prepared recipient

10 – speak

– God does not speak to us like this today; now He speaks through His Word

– He still calls us to obey Him in faith!

2. First Assignment – 1 Samuel 3

Speak in Faith

– Can you imagine what Samuel has to do? To your mentor?

11-12 – forecasting what will become

13 – Eli knew judgment was coming (we know we will all be judged one day, 2 Cor. 5:10)

15 – Samuel was not excited to do this at first

16 – Eli knew God told Samuel something

17 – don't hide it, even if difficult – you'll receive the same punishments

18 – told everything, literally “all the words”

- Key: God always does what He sees to be good! (God is good, all the time; all the time, God is good.)
- We must have the faith to be ready to speak – even if the audience will not like the answer (John the Baptist)

3. First King – 1 Samuel 8

Pray in Faith

- The Ark of the Covenant has been returned home.
- Israelites are never content.
- 1-3 – Samuel the last of the Judges – 350 years total; sons not like dad
- 4 – people want a change
- 5 – want to be like those around (Key: 1 Timothy 6:6 – contentment); make us – demanding
- 6 – rightfully so – displeased; Samuel knew true strength comes through prayer! 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- 7 – listen to the people – rejection of God, not Samuel!
- 9 – cannot have your cake and eat it too!
- Samuel knew the best thing to do was pray!
- We pray, like Jesus, for the Father’s Will to be done! Matthew 26:39

4. Royal Failure – 1 Samuel 15

Rebuke in Faith

- Saul made an illegal sacrifice in Ch. 13 (wrong tribe, Benjamin)
- 1 – Remember your place
- 3 – destroy all – with God, all means all!
- 8 – took king
- 9 – spared sheep, etc.
- 10-11 – God repents setting up Saul as a king
- 13 – Saul tries to puff up Samuel
- 14 – Samuel is a smart aleck
- 15 – blame game – “they”
- 20 – lying about ‘obedience’
- 21 – blame: “But the people...”
- 22 – partial obedience does not cut it!
- 24-25 – Saul repents, deed already done and must suffer the consequences
- 33 – Samuel does what Saul wouldn’t do!

- Samuel called out Saul’s sin by showing him what God has said.
- We are to still rebuke with the Word – 2 Timothy 3:16-17

5. Samuel’s Death – 1 Samuel 25 Die in Faith

- The book shifts after chapter 15 to the story of David then Saul & David
- 1 – Samuel was faithful to the Lord until death; he is greatly mourned
- Psalm 116:15
- Revelation 2:10
- Matthew 10:22
- He died in faith, Hebrews 11:32

Be like Samuel, and obey in faith, speak in faith, pray in faith, rebuke in faith, and most importantly die in faith!

He lived this way throughout his whole life!

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