

# WANTING ANSWERS MORE THAN GOD

1 SAMUEL 28

"We don't have to be afraid of evil, but we're also not supposed to go looking for it."



## 1 FEAR AND THE SILENCE OF GOD

1 SAMUEL 28:5-6



- Saul was terrified when he saw the Philistine army.
- He inquired of the LORD by dreams, Urim, and prophets.
- The LORD remained silent.
- God had already spoken in 1 Samuel 15.
- Saul turned to God in desperation, but he had rejected God's Word.

"When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart."

1 SAMUEL 28:5

## 2 SEEKING ANSWERS IN THE WRONG PLACE

1 SAMUEL 28:7-14



- Saul sought a medium—someone who contacted the dead.
- God's Law forbids seeking mediums (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 19:31; 20:27; Deut. 18:9-13).
- Saul disguised himself and traveled to Endor.
- Fear and desperation led him away from the LORD.

"Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her."

1 SAMUEL 28:7

## 3 ELOHIM AND SAMUEL'S MESSAGE

1 SAMUEL 28:13-19



- (v13) elohim = beings whose "home address" is the spiritual realm.
- (v14) Saul recognized the elohim as Samuel.
- (v16-18) Samuel repeated what Saul already knew: the LORD had rejected him as king.
- (v19) Saul, his sons, and Israel would fall to the Philistines.

"Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me... The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines." v.19

## 4 WANTING ANSWERS MORE THAN GOD

1 SAMUEL 28



Saul came looking for answers, but instead received four questions.

1. (v9) "Why have you set a trap for my life?"
2. (v12) "Why have you deceived me?"
3. (v15) "Why have you disturbed me?"
4. (v16) "Why do you consult me?"

"You must be blameless before the LORD your God." DEUTERONOMY 18:13  
Blameless ≠ perfection  
It's wholehearted loyalty and belonging to the LORD.

SAMUEL WANTED ANSWERS MORE THAN HE WANTED GOD.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."

PSALM 23:5



## 5 TRUSTING THE SHEPHERD

PSALM 23



- David also faced fear, uncertainty, and unanswered questions.
- He cried out honestly to God (Psalm 22:2; Psalm 13:1).
- David could say, "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."
- When surrounded by enemies, David trusted God's presence and guidance.

"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."

PSALM 23:1

MAIN TAKEAWAY:

# DO WE WANT JESUS MORE THAN WE WANT ANSWERS?

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO WHO WE CHOOSE TO TRUST.



## Seeking God's Kingdom — Going Deeper

### Part 27 — “Wanting Answers More Than God” — 6.05.26

#### Main Scripture: 1 Samuel 28

##### → Fear and the Silence of God — 1 Samuel 28:5–6

- (v5–6) Saul was terrified when he saw the Philistine army
- Dreams, Urim, and prophets were normal ways Israel sought God's guidance
- Saul tried all three, but the LORD remained silent
- God had already spoken through Samuel in 1 Samuel 15:26–28
- Saul turned to God in desperation, but he had already rejected God's Word

##### → Seeking Answers in the Wrong Place — 1 Samuel 28:7–14

- (v7) Saul sought a medium – someone who contacted the dead
- (Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 19:31, 20:27) Israel was commanded not to seek mediums
- Saul disguised himself and traveled to Endor to seek guidance apart from God

##### → Elohim and Samuel's Message — 1 Samuel 28:13–19

- (v13) *elohim* = beings whose "home address" is the spiritual realm
- (v14) Saul recognized the *elohim* as Samuel
- (v16–18) Samuel repeated what Saul already knew: the LORD rejected him as king
- (v19) Samuel announced that Saul, his sons, and Israel would fall to the Philistines

##### → Wanting Answers More Than God — 1 Samuel 28

- (v9, 12, 15, 16) Four "Why?" questions exposed Saul's:  
— violence, deception, rebellion, and refusal to accept God's will
- (Deuteronomy 18:13) "blameless" ≠ perfection  
— It's a wholehearted belonging to the LORD / a loyal love for God alone
- Saul wanted answers more than he wanted God

##### → Trusting the Shepherd — Psalm 23

- David also faced fear, uncertainty, and unanswered questions
- (Psalm 22:2; Psalm 13:1) David cried out honestly to God in prayer
- (Psalm 23) David could say, "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing."
- When surrounded by enemies, David trusted God's presence and guidance

##### → Main Takeaway: Do we want Jesus more than we want answers?

→ **Next Step:** Where are you most tempted to look for answers, control, or security instead of trusting in the presence and wisdom of Jesus?