

CHASING AFTER GOD



Message #10

The Tragic Fall of Saul (1 Samuel 28)

1 SAMUEL 28

1 Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, "You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men."

1 SAMUEL 28

2 And David said to Achish, "Surely you know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Therefore I will make you one of my chief guardians forever."

3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had lamented for him and buried him in Ramah, in his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the spiritists out of the land.

1 SAMUEL 28

4 Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa.

5 When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

1 SAMUEL 28

6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets.

7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor."

1 SAMUEL 28

8 So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes, and he went, and two men with him; and they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Please conduct a seance for me, and bring up for me the one I shall name to you."

1 SAMUEL 28

9 Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?"

1 SAMUEL 28

10 And Saul swore to her by the LORD, saying, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."

11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" And he said, "Bring up Samuel for me."

1 SAMUEL 28

12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman spoke to Saul, saying, "Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul!"

13 And the king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What did you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I saw a spirit ascending out of the earth."

1 SAMUEL 28

14 So he said to her, "What is his form?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is covered with a mantle." And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground and bowed down.

1 SAMUEL 28

15 Now Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am deeply distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God has departed from me and does not answer me anymore, neither by prophets nor by dreams. Therefore I have called you, that you may reveal to me what I should do."

1 SAMUEL 28

16 Then Samuel said: "Why then do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy?"

17 "And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David.

1 SAMUEL 28

18 "Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day.

1 SAMUEL 28

19 "Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

1 SAMUEL 28

20 Then immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night.

(NKJV)

Stories in Scripture

- Started Good >>> Stayed on Track
- Started Bad >>> Transformed
- Started Good >>> Went Bad >>> Recovered
- Started Good >>> Went BadNever Recovered

King Saul

A Promising Start



- **Saul started off good**
 - Humble
 - Big, strong & handsome, impressive
 - Had military victories
 - Chosen & Anointed
 - Powerful experiences with God

A Promising Start

- **1 Sam 10:9** “God gave him another heart”
- **1 Sam 10:10** “the Spirit of God came upon him”
“he prophesied”



Saul knew what it was like to feel
the ecstasy of having
God come upon you
and fill you with His Spirit.

Sin Enters In

- **1st Failure – 1 Samuel 13**
 - Waiting on Samuel
 - Saul grows impatient



God severally rebukes Saul.

Sin Enters In

- **2nd Failure – 1 Samuel 15**
- Commanded to completely destroy the Amalekites
- Spares King Agag and the best of livestock



God severely rebukes Saul.

Sin Enters In

- 1) **Never seemed to repent.**
- 2) **Blamed** the circumstances and/or people for his choices.
- 3) **Justified** his wrongs.

Beloved, don't be like this.



Then Sin Takes Over



- Sin has an aggressive nature.
It has power.

**Disobedient >>> Stubborn >>>
Jealous >>> Angry >>>
Murderous >>> Darkness >>>
Destruction**

Bone Chilling Words

13:13 – “you have done foolishly”

15:11 – “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as King”

**15:26 – “you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the
LORD has rejected you”**

16:14 – “the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul”

16:14 - “a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him”



1 SAMUEL 28

Philistines are about to attack Israel
Saul is terrified

Why???

Out number & out-gunned

But there's more...

1 SAMUEL 28

Saul knows God is not with him.

No dreams, No Urim, No Prophets --- No Answer

Why is God silent?

**God has completely
cut Saul off.**

There is a point of no return.

Hebrews 3

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years.

Hebrews 3

10 Therefore I was angry with that generation,
And said, 'They always go astray in their
heart, And they have not known My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not
enter My rest.'"

12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of
you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from
the living God;

Hebrews 3

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

Hebrews 3

15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

(NKJV)

The Witch at En Dor

**Saul cannot hear God.
He chooses an alternative route.**

Why is this so bad?

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

9 "When you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the **abominations** of those nations.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

12 "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

The Lord's Commands

- Boundaries of Protection
- God knows the darkness, deception, destruction & death on the other side.

Saul's Request

Call up Samuel

She objects bc of Saul's decree

Who was talking to Saul?

Was it fake? (probably not this one)

Was it a demon? (possible)

Was it Samuel's spirit? (likely)

1 Samuel 28

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(NKJV)

1 Samuel 31



The next day, just as Samuel said, Saul dies in battle along with his 3 sons, including Jonathan.



King Saul

- A testimony of a life wasted.
- A testimony of an anointing wasted.
- A testimony that choices matter.
- A calling unfulfilled.

Takeaways

- **Stay away from the abomination stuff.**
- **Don't try to access the "spirit world" apart from Jesus.**
 - **There is only one mediator between God and man, that is Jesus.**

Takeaways

- **The wages of sin is death.**
- **Don't harden your heart towards God like Saul did. There is a point of no return.**
 - **The price is much too high.**
 - **Eternity is a long time.**

Choose Your Path

The Way of Saul

- Sin & Disobedience
- Jealousy
- Anger
- Rebellion against God
- Witchcraft
- Pride

Death

The Way of Jesus

- Complete Obedience
- Thankful
- Love
- Serving God
- Sacrifice
- Humility

Life

Numbers 6:24-26

24 "The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 The LORD make His face shine upon
you, and be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon
you, and give you peace."