

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## SILENCE (1 SAMUEL 28:3-14) THE SETTING

We are reminded that Samuel had already died and that Saul had removed the mediums and spiritists from the land. We should also remember that Saul had killed all but one of the priests, Abiathar, who was now with David.

### SILENCE

As the Philistines gathered all their armies to attack Israel, Saul was scared to his core. He finally cries out to God for help but only receives silence. His lifelong rejection of God isn't changed by his empty cries for help.

- **Should we expect God's power in our lives when we aren't following Him?**

### OPTIONS

Unable to manipulate God, Saul turns to the occult. He hoped the "Witch of En-dor" could help him get the information he wanted. If the Living God wouldn't speak to him, maybe a dead man would.

- **Saul needed the truth from God but was too hardened to come to God himself. So, he seeks out Samuel.**

### THE MEDIUM

This medium had been used by an evil spirit to deceive people for profit. Many had come to her, believing they had spoken to a dead loved one as they interacted with demonic influence. She did not have a connection with "the other side," and she knew it.

- **Deceivers connected to The Deceiver will always deceive.**

### SURPRISE!

After Saul promises to keep her safe from the king, he reveals the name of the dead. Her scream reveals that she didn't expect Samuel to show up and that she was sitting with the king.

- **She did not "bring up Samuel" from the dead. She only expected the familiar spirit she had known before.**

### WAS IT SAMUEL?

Yes, but he was not summoned; he was sent. God sent him as a witness from heaven to confirm the word he had spoken while he was alive.

- **Saul may expect guidance or consolation, but Samuel has been sent to remind Saul of his sin and God's judgment.**

## JUDGMENT (1 SAMUEL 28:15-25)

### SERIOUS TROUBLE

Saul shares that the Philistines are gathered, God is not speaking, and Samuel is his only hope. Saul's trouble got worse when Samuel reminded him that he rejected God and that God would keep His word. Samuel added to Saul's trouble when he prophesied that Saul and his sons would die the next day.

### SOBERING TRUTH

Saul had lived his life doing it his own way. He obeyed God only to the extent that it got him what he wanted. He asked others to speak to God for him. He rejected God's repeated calls to repentance. He rejected God.

- **Saul owned his life, but God owns eternity. Rejecting God = rejecting life.**

### TERRIFIED

Saul fell flat on the ground. He was broken, exhausted, and overwhelmed. He collapsed into a heap of misery and self-pity. Samuel and Samuel's God were gone. All he had was one last meal before dying.

- **We are not Saul! We have a God who calls us to Him. We should not be afraid. We should fall at His feet and rejoice.**

## COMPROMISE (1 SAMUEL 29:1-11)

### A STEP BACK

In chapter 27, we left David with Achish and a big problem: David was expected to attack Israel with the Philistines. Here, we see David and his men getting ready for battle when someone recognizes they are Hebrews.

- **David will have to choose between his fake alliance and loyalty to Israel.**

### A DOUBLE LIFE

David compromised his principles leading him to live a double life for 16 months.

- **This is a classic mistake to which we are also prone: attempting to lead a double life with respect to Christ and the world. What looks like temporary satisfaction turns into long-term separation from faithful living with Christ.**

### AN HONORABLE MAN?

Achish stands up for David and tells him he knows he is as reliable as an angel of God. David knew his own doubt had led him to this place, and now his deceit had led him to an impossible situation.

- **When we have allowed ourselves to walk away from Christ, we may feel like there is no way back.**

### GRACE

It seems that Achish offers a way out of David's mess—go home quietly. Only by the Grace of God was David given a way back to true safety.

- **As followers of Christ, we desire to follow Him faithfully. When we find ourselves away, we can look to Him for our way back. God still offers grace.**

## COMMUNICATION

- We want God to hear us.
- **We want to hear God.**
- **Communication with God is dependent on our motives. God is not our servant, that He must listen to our every command. When we are prideful, selfish, and lovers of sin, God's communication to us will be conviction.**

## RELATIONSHIP

- Following Christ = a relationship with Him.
- **In this relationship, Christ influences our lives; we follow Him, and He hears us.**
- **If we continually reject that influence but still desire His grace, we will never have a true relationship with Him—not in this life or the next.**

## DELIVERED

- As Believers, followers of Christ in a relationship with Him, we are delivered.
- **We are delivered from the Enemy and sometimes delivered from ourselves.**
- **Following Christ gives us access to the one who can (and will) still change our lives. The question is, are we ready to follow Him? His amazing grace will bring amazing change.**