

When God is Silent: The Danger of Seeking Answers in the Wrong Places

David's Dilemma: Caught Between Two Loyalties

As the Philistines prepared for war against **Israel**, Achish, the Philistine king, told David, *"You and your men will fight alongside me."*

David, still hiding out in Philistine territory, **gave a vague response**:
"Then you shall see what your servant can do."

Achish, fully convinced that David was now **his loyal servant**, made him his **personal bodyguard for life**.

Meanwhile, **Saul was in crisis**.

Saul's Desperation: Seeking God, But Finding Silence

At this point, **Samuel was dead**, and Saul had distanced himself **so far from God** that when he tried to pray, **God didn't answer him**.

- There were no **prophetic visions**.
- No **dreams** from God.
- No response from the **Urim and Thummim** (a priestly method of seeking God's will).

Why was God silent?

Because Saul had spent **years rejecting God's voice**, disobeying His commands, and making decisions based on **fear and pride** rather than faith.

In a **panic**, Saul **turned to the very thing he had once outlawed—witchcraft**. He asked his servants,

"Find me a woman with a familiar spirit, so I may inquire of her."

They told him about a **medium** in Endor.

Saul's Hypocrisy: Seeking the Dead Instead of the Living God

Saul **disguised himself**, put on different clothes, and went to the woman **at night** (a sign that he knew what he was doing was wrong). He said, *"Call up the spirit of the one I name."*

At first, the woman resisted:

"You know that Saul has banned all mediums and spiritists. Are you trying to get me killed?"

Saul **swore to her by the Lord** (the irony!) that she wouldn't be punished.

The woman asked, *"Who do you want me to bring up?"*

Saul replied, *"Samuel."*

When Samuel actually appeared, the woman **screamed in terror!** She **immediately realized** that her usual deception wasn't at play here—**something supernatural was happening.**

Samuel's Message: A Harsh Reality

Saul asked Samuel, *"God has abandoned me. He won't answer me anymore. Tell me what I should do!"*

Samuel responded,

"Why are you asking me, since the Lord has already departed from you? The Lord has torn the kingdom from you and given it to David. Because you disobeyed God, tomorrow you and your sons will be with me, and Israel will fall to the Philistines."

At this, **Saul collapsed**, completely terrified and weak from not eating all day. The woman and his servants **urged him to eat** so he could regain strength before returning to battle.

Personal Application: What Can We Learn?

1. Don't Expect to Hear from God if You've Been Ignoring Him

Saul wanted God's guidance **only when he was in trouble**, but he had spent years rejecting God's commands. Now, in his moment of crisis, **he found only silence.**

- **Proverbs 1:28-30** – *"Then they will call on Me, but I will not answer; they will seek Me diligently, but they will not find Me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord."*
- **Application:** Are you actively **listening** to God when life is good? Or do you only turn to Him in crisis?

2. When God is Silent, Don't Seek Answers in the Wrong Places

Saul was desperate. Instead of **waiting on the Lord**, he sought **forbidden** spiritual guidance. **He went to the enemy's camp for answers.**

- **Isaiah 8:19** – *"And when they say to you, 'Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,' should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?"*
- **Application:** Do you turn to **worldly solutions** when God seems silent? Do you seek advice from ungodly sources instead of waiting on Him?

3. God's Judgment is Certain—Delayed, But Not Avoided

Years before, Samuel had warned Saul that **God had rejected him as king**. Yet, Saul continued to **fight against God's will**. Now, that **judgment was finally coming to pass.**

- **Galatians 6:7** – *"Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap."*

- **Application:** Have you been ignoring a **warning from God**? Are you trying to **avoid the consequences** of past disobedience? The best thing to do is **repent and return to Him now**.

4. Fear Without Faith Leads to Desperation

Saul's **fear** drove him to **desperation** instead of **repentance**. Instead of humbling himself before God, he **ran to a witch** for answers.

- **2 Timothy 1:7** – *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*
- **Application:** When you feel trapped by fear, **do you turn to God** or **let desperation control your choices**?

5. The Occult is Real—and Dangerous

The **woman at Endor** was used to deceiving people with **familiar spirits (demons)**. But when **Samuel actually appeared**, she was **shocked**—proving that even **she** wasn't expecting the real deal.

Many people today **dabble in horoscopes, psychics, tarot cards, and spiritualism** without realizing that **they are opening themselves up to demonic deception**.

- **Deuteronomy 18:10-12** – *"There shall not be found among you anyone who... practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist... For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord."*
- **Application:** Are you involved in **anything that glorifies the occult**? Even **harmless-seeming** things like astrology, fortune-telling, or New Age practices can **lead to deception**.

Final Challenge

1. **Are you listening to God now, or do you only seek Him in crisis?**
2. **When God seems silent, do you wait on Him or look for answers elsewhere?**
3. **Have you ignored God's warnings, assuming consequences won't come?**
4. **Do you let fear push you into making bad choices?**
5. **Are you entertaining any form of spiritual deception in your life?**

Saul's story is a **warning**: The time to seek God is **now**, not when we're desperate. Instead of running to the **wrong places for answers**, we must **trust in His Word, wait on His timing, and surrender to His will**.