

When You Don't Have God

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1 Samuel 28:3-25

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A Non-chronological Chapter

- David was in pickle with Philistines... and the story is interrupted!
- True chronological order: 1) 27:1-28; 2) 29:1-11 3) 28:3-25
- We can guess that due to geography^{28:4;29:1} given to us
- Narrator wants us to see Saul's problem way worse than David's

Life's Burdens seem lighter when viewed from God's context

- Cliche: "there's always somebody worse off than you" - not helpful
- We must view our trials in light of God's sovereignty
- Jesus to invalid for 38yrs - *'that nothing worse may happen'*^{Jn5:5,14}
- The far worse is separation from God^{28:15}
- In Jesus we rightly fear God & have hope^{Psa66:16-20}

Most hopeless misery in all of life is to be abandoned by God

- Samuel died, Saul had no voice to listen to
- Saul facing massive Philistine aggression, very afraid⁵
- God was no longer listening to or guiding Saul - Saul tried⁶
- But Saul's heart wasn't right and wouldn't call on God humbly^{Joel2:23}
- Chronicler shows us Saul's heart^{1Chr10:13-14}
- Other wicked kings repented Ahab^{1K21:29}; Manasseh^{2Chr33:12-13}
- Saul seems determined to come to God on his own terms
- Will you come to God humbly through Jesus Christ^{Jn14:6}

Unbiblical Methods Won't Reach God

- Saul decides forbidden ways^{Dt18:9-14} to seek out counsel from God
- Saul's own orthopraxy³ made that harder
- Saul removes his royal robes & disguises self⁸
- Saul even swears by Yahweh no harm to medium¹⁰
- Medium shocked by Samuel's appearance - knew it was Saul
- Samuel appeared by God's purposes - descriptive not prescriptive!
- Samuel's message from God is the same: *you did not obey*¹⁸
- If we despise God's Word, He will take it from us!

Spiritual Desperation Can Be Misdirected

- Saul could have humbled himself & sought God but he didn't¹⁶
- Saul wanted results of God's favor, not God's favor
- What is difference between believer and Saul feeling forsaken?
- Ps 13¹⁻⁴ David felt forsaken - he ran to God^{Ps13:3}, not other things
- David didn't look elsewhere - he pushed into God^{Ps139:23-24}
- We now live in the Gospel Age! We have Jesus as advocate^{1Jn2:1-2}
- Jesus is our Great High Priest^{Heb4:14-16} trust in HIS work not yours
- Remember Double Cure of the Gospel:
 - 1) Jesus paid for our Sins^{Rom5:8}
 - 2) By faith we get His perfect Righteousness^{Rom3:22}

Even in Darkness, the Light of the Gospel Shines

- Saul was terrified when he realized reality of his actions²⁰
- Medium set 'last supper' before Saul before he went into night^{dark}
- Judas also received 'morsel' before going out into night^{Jn13:30}
- Jesus went into darkness^{Mk15:33-34} so we don't have to
- Jesus' cry meant we don't have to face darkness^{Rom3:22}