



not what i planned!!!

Hell on Earth

Journey with Jesus: Luke 18:18-20:8
September 18, 2016 - Pastor Bruce French

What happens when the Spirit of God leaves?

1. People will resort to _____ for relief. 1 Samuel 28:4-10

a) Bring your sins into the _____. 28:8

2. People will look back _____ with regret. 1 Samuel 28:11-19

a) Be honest about how you _____ you are. 28:15

3. People will be _____ and _____ by fear. 1 Samuel 28:20-25

a) Repent of your sins and _____ to God. 28:20

Take Home Truth

Seek the _____ while he may be _____.
Isaiah 55:6-7

Today's Core Belief:

Man & Sin: "I believe all people are loved by God, and because of my sins, I need Jesus Christ as my Savior." (from John 3:16)

Today's Action:

Have you been drifting away from the Lord? Has your love for him grown cold? Repent and turn back to him; he is waiting with open arms.

hand in hand



verse by verse

Deeper Connection Study

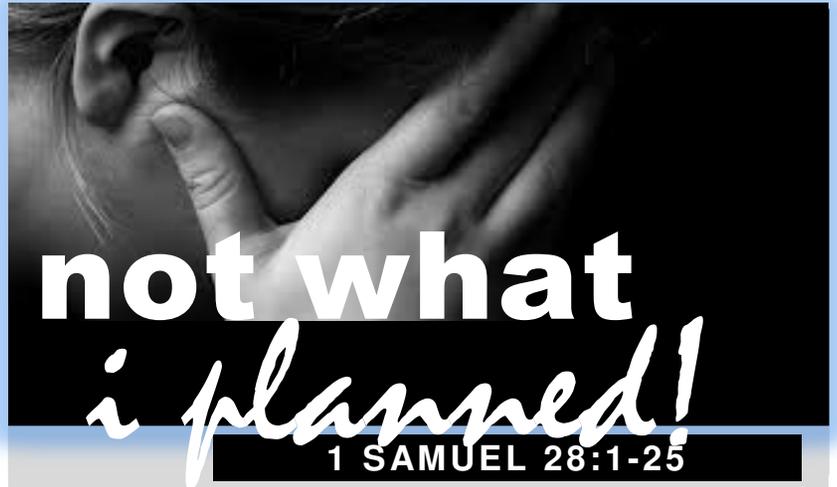
Saul's fall from grace hits a new low. His spiritual bankruptcy is highlighted as he fearfully tries to control his destiny. It is a sad depiction of a broken man who continues to make poor choices that are contrary to God's will.

Today's Core Belief discussed: Man & Sin.

Read 1 Samuel 28

1. Do you think Saul was concerned that David associated with the Philistines (vv. 1-2, 5)? What kind of threat would this have posed to Saul?
2. What three ways did the Lord usually reveal things to those who inquired (v. 6)? How did God respond to Saul?
3. How desperate was Saul (v. 5)? What lengths did he go to ascertain the unfolding of events (vv. 7-10)? How terrible was Saul's action? What does God say about it in His Word (cf. Lev. 19:31; 20:6; Deut. 18:10-14) and how did He eventually deal with Saul (1 Chron. 10:13-14)?
4. Amazingly, what one positive action of Saul's reign is noted here (v. 3; cf. 14:35)? What news does Saul receive about the near future (vv. 16-19)? How did he accept it (vv. 20-25)?
5. How was Saul's life a tragic, downward spiral of disobedience and despair (cf. 13:8-14; 15:9, 12-26; 18:8-12; 19:1; 22:18-19)? In what ways does Samuel's declaration in 15:22-23 fit into the story of 28:8-25?
6. *Read Hebrews 3:12-13.* How does this passage inform and encourage us today to guard against unbelief? How do the negative aspects of this passage parallel Saul's destructive life? What have you learned from Saul's life?

PRAYER TO THE POINT: Praise God for his grace and mercy. With a heart of repentance, ask God to forgive you for disobedience and unbelief. Pray for God to increase your faith and give you resolve to live daily for him.



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1 SAMUEL 28:1-25

Every believer knows someone who has wandered away from God. Maybe that person you know is an individual who was struggling in his marriage and found it easier to walk away from God than to stay with his spouse. Perhaps that person was a Bible study leader who once walked with the Lord, but the worries and cares of this life choked out an interest in spiritual things. Whoever that person you might know is, the one thing each wanderer has in common is that they are distant from God.

King Saul was one such wanderer, and like countless others, his choices led him down a dark path to the point that when he called upon God the Lord no longer answered. Being so distant from God that he no longer answers is a frightening place to be.

For some hearers today this will seem like a message that someone else should hear. However, it is critical to note that no one is exempt from wandering. As Paul wrote, "These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come," (1 Corinthians 10:11).