

**“Turning Away”**  
(I Samuel 28:3-25)

*Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. I Samuel 28:3 ESV*

**Saul’s Dilemma (4-7)**

*<sup>4</sup> The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. <sup>5</sup> When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. <sup>6</sup> And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then Saul said to his servants, “Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her.” And his servants said to him, “Behold, there is a medium at En-dor.” I Samuel 28:4-7 ESV*

**Saul’s Deception (8-14)**

*<sup>8</sup> So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, “Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you.” <sup>9</sup> The woman said to him, “Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?” I Samuel 28:8-9 ESV*

*But Saul swore to her by the Lord, “As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing.” <sup>11</sup> Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” He said, “Bring up Samuel for me.” <sup>12</sup> When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice.*

*And the woman said to Saul, “Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.” <sup>13</sup> The king said to her, “Do not be afraid. What do you see?”*

*And the woman said to Saul, “I see a god coming up out of the earth.”*

*He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.*  
I Samuel 28:10-14 ESV

### **Saul's Predicted Death (15-25)**

*<sup>15</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore, I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do."*

*<sup>16</sup> And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? <sup>17</sup> The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. <sup>18</sup> Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. I Samuel 28:15-18 ESV*

*<sup>19</sup> Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The Lord will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines."*

*<sup>20</sup> Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. <sup>21</sup> And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me.*

*<sup>22</sup> Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." <sup>23</sup> He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed.*

*<sup>24</sup> Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread*

*of it, <sup>25</sup> and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night. I Samuel 28:19-25 ESV*

## **Application**

Don't mess around with black arts.

Learn from Saul's sad story.

*For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. II Cor. 5:21 NLT*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?*

*“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

*<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Hebr. 12:1-11 ESV*

God disciplines us because He loves us.  
That we may share in his holiness.

We can persevere because of Jesus example.

**If you are experiencing some loving discipline how should you respond?**

Repent

Be restored to fellowship and intimacy with the father.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ8dKsqH\\_g4&ab\\_channel=RachelHamilton](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJ8dKsqH_g4&ab_channel=RachelHamilton)  
(start at 25 go to 4:48).