

End of Saul's reign & beginning of David's **Pr 1:23**- David at a low place in his life, fearing Saul's murderous plots he flees to the camp of the Philistines to get away from Saul's threats of murder. Fear can drive us to do foolish things even while we love the Lord. It did Peter when Jesus arrested--*warming himself at the fires of the enemy*. So can we fall into despondency & desperation doing things we wish we had never done.

*1 Now it came about in those days that the Philistines gathered their armed camps for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Know assuredly that you will go out with me in the camp, you and your men." 2 And David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." So Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."*

David's using vague words, unclear what he is saying—Achish sees advantage having David w/ him. David is in a difficult spot pretending to be w/ Achish all the while Gath is a temporary refuge from Saul. Now he can't refuse Achish or he'd be found out & if he did go into battle he won't fight **'I will not stretch out my hand against my Lord and His anointed King' 24:10 'Who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be w/o guilt?' 26:9**

It is a dilemma, only God can rescue him & 600 men out of situation. What are David's men thinking about? They will not fight fellow soldiers of Israel. Leaders can lose the confidence of their followers w/ bad decisions only to see God's hand when delivered out of it.

Especially w/ the turn of events in Ziklag when Amalekites make raid on city left unprotected it burned and families of David & his men taken captive while they are in Gath.

*3 Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him and buried him in Ramah his own city. And Saul had removed from the land those who were mediums and spiritists. 4 So the Philistines gathered together and came and camped in Shunem; and Saul gathered all Israel together and they camped in Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the camp of the Philistines, he was afraid and his heart trembled greatly. 6 When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek 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 woman who is a medium at En-dor*

Samuel is dead—*“If the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?”* Enemy attack & King Saul trembling (guilty conscience--priests, Agag, David) *MH Troubles are terrors to a child of disobedience*. Lord not answering so Saul turns to a witch. Witchcraft removed *Ex 22:18 not allow to live* Even bad leaders can do good things but surface obedience *‘people pleaser, Samuel & others—maybe Saul’s demons*. He is double minded *Isaiah 26:16 ‘They seek Thee in distress..* Fair weather followers

**First deal w/ sin** *Is 59:1,2 Behold, the LORD’s hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.*

**Need** drives to God, **pressure** pushes us to Him but not Saul. He slaughtered God’s priests & expects to hear from God, instead turns to witch of EnDor. **My mother séance – seer**

*8 Then Saul disguised himself by putting on other clothes, and went, he and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night; and he said, “Conjure up for me, please, and bring up for me whom I shall name to you.” 9 But the woman said to him, “Behold, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off those who are mediums and spiritists from the land. Why are you then laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?” 10 And Saul vowed to her by the LORD, saying, “As the LORD lives, there shall no punishment come upon you for this thing.”*

Saul goes incognito – guilty conscience—disguised to deceive---hide hypocrisy. He uses God as Co-conspirator in his scheme. Samuel had taught the school of the prophets not far away but Saul never inquired.

*11 Then the woman said, “Whom shall I bring up for you?” And he said, “Bring up Samuel for me.” 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman spoke to Saul, saying, “Why have you deceived me? For you are Saul.” 13 And the king said to her, “Do not be afraid; but what do you see?” And the woman said to Saul, “I see a divine being coming up out of the earth.” 14 And he said to her, “What is his form?” And she said, “An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped with a robe.” And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did homage.*

Satan appears as an angel of light to deceive. Who???? Samuel or demon impersonating. It is a bad example if able to go to Sorcerer to get answers from God or is God allowing Samuel for judgment sake to appear **1Ki 22:23** *deceiving spirit in prophets mouth...Ahab-Micaiah* -- Seals Saul's future & ratifies sin...he bows not to God but apparition or spirit

*15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" And Saul answered, "I am greatly distressed; for the Philistines are waging war against me, and God has departed from me and answers me no more, either through prophets or by dreams; therefore I have called you, that you may make known to me what I should do." 16 And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has departed from you and has become your adversary? 17 "And the LORD has done accordingly as He spoke through me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, to David. 18 "As you did not obey the LORD and did not execute His fierce wrath on Amalek, so the LORD has done this thing to you this day. 19 "Moreover the LORD will also give over Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, therefore tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. Indeed the LORD will give over the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines!"*

Saul already knew this but was in denial 15:27,28; 24:20 *Insanity is to do the same thing over and over again and expecting different results*

*'Your sin shall find you out'* Amalek a type of the flesh Saul was to put to death as we put to death the deeds of the flesh. Saul died by the hand of an Amalekite **2Sam 1:8** Best not to know future--especially if sin is unrepented of. *Death Clock Life span clock-- countdown to end of your life—"our advanced life expectancy calendar will accurately predict you death date.'* *The Death Clock / Life Span Clock gives you the approximate year of your demise. Figure out how many more precious seconds you have left to live!*

*20 Then Saul immediately fell full length upon the ground and was very afraid because of the words of Samuel; also there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day and all night.*

Neither kindness or fear moved Saul to repentance...he at the point of no return...*they would not believe...they could not believe Jn 12:37,39*

*21 And the woman came to Saul and saw that he was terrified, and said to him, "Behold, your maidservant has obeyed you, and I have taken my life in my hand, and have listened to your words which you spoke to me. 22 "So now also, please listen to the voice of your maidservant, and let me set a piece of bread before you that you may eat and have strength when you go on your way." 23 But he refused and said, "I will not eat." However, his servants together with the woman urged him, and he listened to them. So he arose from the ground and sat on the bed. 24 And the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly slaughtered it; and she took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened bread from it. 25 And she brought it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they arose and went away that night.*

Benevolence from a witch....sometimes more compassion, grace & understanding from sinners than saints. *"There's so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, it behoove the rest of us not to judge the least of us.'*

Chuck Girard 'Don't shoot the wounded' ...they need us more than ever, they need our love no matter what it is they've done. Sometimes we just condemn them and don't take the time to hear their story, don't shoot the wounded someday you might be one--

David like Jesus exemplified this...not only did he not shoot but protected and left Saul to God. At a low point in David's life refusing to touch God's anointed he said maybe he would be **'struck down in battle'** 26:10 It is what happened 2 Sam 1 Song of the bow David praised the good in Saul & left the bad to God. ***God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved thru Him Jn 3:17*** And neither should we condemn but bring the good news of salvation and forgiveness of sin.