

# DESPERATE FOR GOD TO MOVE

Today, as we continue in our "Desperate for God to Move" series, we turn to 1 Samuel 28. Have you ever had a moment in your life when you felt off track? Ever woke up and thought, "How did I get here?" Or maybe you've seen a close friend make bad choices and thought, "Why can't they seem to pull it together?" In many ways, this is what we see in the life of King Saul. He had been installed as the first king of Israel after Israel made it clear to God that they "needed" an earthly king. Initially, Saul started out well, but he eventually ended up off track as he made a series of bad decisions. One of those decisions is highlighted in our today's passage. Saul got desperate, and subsequently, he got off track. Similarly, when we get desperate, it's easy to start making bad decisions that get us off track.

**Key Passage:** 1 Samuel 28

## Discussion Questions:

1. What led King Saul to get off track in his life? How does this relate to our own choices and experiences?

King Saul's downfall began with small compromises, such as partially obeying God's commands. Over time, these small compromises grew, leading to eventual desperation and poor decisions, like seeking out a medium. Similarly, in our lives, small compromises or sins can lead to more significant issues if not addressed early.

2. How did the death of Samuel create a void in spiritual leadership, and why is spiritual leadership crucial? How does this relate to our own lives?

Samuel's death left a significant void in spiritual leadership for Saul and Israel. Without strong spiritual guidance, Saul made poor decisions. This highlights the importance of spiritual leadership in families, churches, and other groups, as it helps maintain a focus on God's will and prevents negative influences from taking over.

3. Why did Saul ban mediums and necromancers, and what does this teach us about dealing with evil influences in our lives? What practical implications does this have for our lives?

Saul banned mediums and necromancers to rid the land of practices associated with evil spirits, which are contrary to God's will. This teaches us to be cautious about allowing any form of evil or occult practices into our lives, as they can lead us away from God.

4. What does Saul's decision to consult a medium reveal about the dangers of desperation?

Saul's decision to consult a medium in his desperation reveals how desperation can lead to irrational and ungodly choices. It serves as a warning to seek God and be patient in times of desperation rather than turning to harmful alternatives.

5. How did Saul's partial obedience to God in 1 Samuel 15 contribute to his ultimate downfall? Why does disobedience to God's will usually happen through a pattern of small compromises or unchecked sins?

Saul's partial obedience in sparing some of the Amalekites' livestock, rather than destroying everything as God commanded, marked the beginning of his downfall. This act of disobedience set a pattern of compromising God's commands, leading to his eventual loss of the kingdom. The story of Saul consulting the medium at En-dor illustrates how unchecked sin and desperation can lead to catastrophic consequences. It serves as a reminder to address our sins early before they grow and lead to more significant destruction.

6. In what ways can humility help prevent us from getting off track, as seen in Saul's life?

Humility could have helped Saul by allowing him to admit his mistakes and seek guidance from God and others. Instead, his pride kept him from acknowledging his wrongdoings, leading him further off track. Humility enables us to correct our course and seek God's help before things spiral out of control.

7. What are the dangers of letting pride rule our decisions, and how does Saul's story illustrate this?

Pride can prevent us from admitting our mistakes and seeking help, leading to a series of poor decisions. Saul's story illustrates this as his pride kept him from seeking genuine repentance, leading to his ultimate downfall. It shows the importance of being open to correction and guidance.

8. How can desperation be both a positive and negative force in our lives?

Desperation can lead to negative outcomes when it drives us to ungodly solutions, like Saul's turn to the medium. However, it can also be positive if it pushes us closer to God and deeper in faith, using our desperate situations as a catalyst for spiritual growth.

9. What practical steps can we take to prevent small sins from growing into larger issues, as seen in Saul's life?

To prevent small sins from growing, we should regularly examine our lives, confess and repent of our sins, and seek accountability from others. As seen in Saul's life, addressing issues helps prevent them from escalating, where small compromises lead to significant consequences.

10. What about this lesson has challenged you most? What is your biggest takeaway?