

Message #68

I Samuel 28:20-25

In the final chapter of the book of Revelation in Revelation 22:11, an angel is talking with John and he says these words: “Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the one who is holy still keep himself holy.” The point of this verse is to communicate that whatever the character of the person really is will be exactly the way it is when Christ returns. **Whatever the character of the individual was in life, will be the character of the individual when life ends.**

This verse seems more and more personal and applicable in these days. It seems to me that we are nearing the Rapture of the Church. What that means in eschatological time is that we could be just seven years away from the Millennium. If you have ever thought you need to make some changes in your relationship with God, now is the time to do it.

The truth is, the threat of Christ’s return, the threat of judgment does not really change too many people even when they are facing their own death. You would think that one about to die would be thinking, I am about to face God. But the fact is, the threat of death does not change too many people.

But wise people are people who fear the LORD and they are people who make changes. Fools don’t and if ever you want to see an example of a fool, it is King Saul.

When we come to this text, we come to what we could legitimately say is “The Last Supper of Saul.” His final meal is indicative of his whole life.

It is a meal shared with others who are in rebellion against God. It is a meal shared with others who are opposed to God and His word.

If you have great fellowship with people who are spiritual losers and people do not love God and are serious about His word, there is something drastically wrong with your spirituality. In fact, we would say you have a spirituality that is identical to that of King Saul.

What we see here is so sad:

THE FINAL MEAL OF SAUL CHARACTERIZES HIS ENTIRE LIFE OF BEING OUT OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AND CONSTANTLY IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THAT WHICH IS GODLESS.

This is a very sober passage of Scripture. It shows what a character can become in the life of one chosen by God. Let this example here be a warning to all of us. One can develop and blossom in the wonderful ways of God or one may become unfaithful and godless.

There are four narrative observations we want to make:

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #1 – Saul falls to the ground after Samuel's message. **28:20**

What is specifically brought out here are two reasons Saul fell to the ground, and this is important:

Reason #1 - Saul fell to the ground because he was very afraid. **28:20a**

Saul fell to the ground because Samuel had just communicated God's word to him and he was afraid of Samuel and God's word.

People who are not right with God do not love truth. People in rebellion are afraid of the word of God. It threatens them.

The moment Jesus Christ returns will be a moment that will cause some to fall down in total and complete shame.

Reason #2 - Saul fell to the ground because he was physically weak. **28:20b**

Saul had not eaten food in a while and was physically weak to the point of collapsing. Keep in mind that he had travelled many miles through some very tough country and when you travel up and down mountains at night, you would be very hungry. Those who have travelled in the mountains can relate to the hunger that comes from expending energy to do that.

So these two things caused him to fall to the ground.

Now what you do not read here is that Saul fell to the ground in total repentance. What you do not read here is that Saul fell down and asked God to forgive him and be gracious to him. What you do not read here is that Saul fell down confessing I have greatly sinned, by consulting a demonic person that You condemn.

In I Chronicles 10:13-14, we read this:

“So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the LORD, because of the word of the LORD which he did not keep; and **also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it and did not inquire of the LORD.** Therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse.”

Saul's character was cemented. It was too late for Saul to repent. Even the threat of his own death did not bring him to repentance.

He was in the right spot, flat on his face on the ground, but he is there for the wrong reason; he is not repentant.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #2 – The Satanic medium woman is in full fellowship with Saul. **28:21-22**

We would naturally think that if you were just told by Samuel that tomorrow you will be dead and in eternity with me, the last thing you would want to do would be to spend your final hours fellowshipping and talking and eating with a witch.

What a sad commentary this is. For all practical purposes, this satanic medium is a real servant and friend of Saul. Think about this. Saul's final hours of life are spent with this evil woman, who should have been executed. This is no light matter-

Leviticus 19:31 - "Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 20:6 - "As for the person who turns to mediums and to spiritists to play the harlot after them, I will also set My face against that person and will cut him off from among his people."

Leviticus 20:27 - "Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them."

Deuteronomy 18:10 - "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft or one who interprets omens or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium or a spiritist or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable to the LORD; and because of these detestable things the LORD your God will drive them out before you."

Samuel is very clear to bring out four relationship facts:

Relationship Fact #1 - She obeyed Saul. **28:21a**

Just because there are people who will obey you does not mean you are right with God. Saul has a Satanic woman doing his bidding.

Relationship Fact #2 - She risked her life for Saul. **28:21b**

This woman knew that witches and mediums and spiritists were supposed to be killed. She knew what the word of God said. In fact, she was appealing to Saul not to obey the word of God. She knew that she had risked her life by doing what she did.

Relationship Fact #3 - She listened to Saul. **28:21c**

Saul felt comfortable talking to this woman. He would talk and she would listen. Years ago a pastor friend of mine got called by a wife who said her husband was sitting in a bar and she asked my friend to go get him. So he went to the bar. He said when he got there, he saw a supposed Christian man sitting at the bar sharing his life with an unsaved, female bartender. He said he walked up to him and said what are you doing here?

When you have better communication with unsaved lost people, than you do with people who love God and His word, something is wrong.

Relationship Fact #4 - She served Saul. **28:22**

Isn't this nice and cozy. Saul is being invited to a meal by a demonic medium, who should have been stoned.

When a believer gets out of fellowship with God, he is capable of doing bizarre things, including snuggling up to godless people who are satanic.

There is someone I know who was not saved years ago who went to a strip club. While he was there he spotted a man who he knew regularly went to church. The man spotted this person and came over to him and said, "Well I guess we both have a little secret to hide." The man I know said, "I don't have any secret. I will tell everyone where I went and what I did. You are the one with the secret to hide."

People who get away from God get caught up in godless environments and fellowship with godless people.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #3 – Saul is prompted by his servants and this Satanic woman to eat a meal. **28:23**

This verse is a perfect picture of Saul's whole life. He has no backbone; he has no integrity, he has no character and he just follows his emotional whims and appetites.

Initially, he wanted to fast; but he was quickly talked out of that by a bunch of godless people.

Believers who are fleshly are easily swayed. They may have their moments when they think about repenting and getting right with God, but they never really will.

Something will come along and they will be right back in the same condition.

NARRATIVE OBSERVATION #4 – Saul eats a religious fellowship meal served by a Satanic woman. **28:24-25**

Take a serious look at these two verses.

The woman kills a fattened calf. She bakes unleavened bread. She is making this a religious meal for Saul. This is all Satanic stuff.

She has prepared the kind of meal you would prepare if you were right with God. No one here is right with God. This is a perversion of what is supposed to be a righteous meal.

This devil woman brings Saul and his servants this meal and they sit there and eat every bit of it. Then they arose and left at night.

This is the last meal we know that Saul ate. Saul is ending his life having wonderful fellowship with a medium who was in contact with the Satanic world.

Instead of obeying God and destroying this Satanic woman, he is eating and fellowshiping with this Satanic woman. That is the story of his life.

Saul and his men spent a final night eating this meal.

It makes you wonder how we will spend our final hours on earth.