



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 12

Lesson Title: Saul Seeks the Witch of Endor

Take Home Point: Seek God for the answers.

Warm-Up:

In his famous book, *The Inferno*, Dante Alighieri takes his readers on an imaginary journey through hell. While one can certainly question the truth of Dante's vision, he creates some vivid and fascinating ways of eternal punishment in his literary masterpiece. For example, those who attempted to foretell the future or practice the occult are destined to walk in a circle with their head on backwards, weeping. In life they tried to see where God did not want them to see; in eternity they are condemned to look ever behind them, their eyes blinded by tears.

Read: Samuel 28, 31

Observation (What happened?):

What was Samuel's message to King Saul?

What happened to Saul in the battle with the Philistines?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Saul wanted to speak with Samuel? What did he want Samuel to do?

Why did the Lord respond differently to Saul (28:6) and David (30:8)?

Insight:

Why doesn't God want us to consult spiritists or mediums to find out what the future holds? First, it is not God's power that drives fortune-telling and bringing up the dead; it is the devil's. It is a satanic means of drawing people away from a life of trust in God and his provision for anything the future brings. In trying to see the future, a person is trying to control and manipulate to make life what he or she thinks it should be, not submitting to God's best plan. As Isaiah 8:19 (NIV) says, "*When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living?*" Second, it is disobedience. Deuteronomy 18:10-11 (NIV) says, "*Let no one be found among you who practices... divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead.*" God wants us to trust him for today and tomorrow, not anyone else either living or dead.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How has reading this part of God's word changed your mind regarding the use of elements of the occult such as fortune-telling, palm reading, Ouija boards, etc.?

Pray for the children in your small group to trust God for the strength to resist temptations from friends or others to participate in occult activities.