**1 Samuel 28**

**Main: Over time, a bad idea becomes a really bad idea.**

**1 Samuel 28:1-5**

* **Starts with the future King serving the enemies of Israel**
* **Moves to the death of Samuel**
* **The period of the Judges ends, the period of the Kings begins and what was clear earlier is even more so now: Israel made a mistake in choosing a human king.**

**David’s descent continues.**

* **He ran because of his fear.**
* **He wanted to feel better rather than endure the difficulty.**
* **And, now his solution is worse than the problem.**
* **A bad idea continued in long enough does not become a good idea.**
* **It just becomes a really bad idea and results in greater consequences.**

**1 Samuel 28:6-8**

**When we won’t listen to God, He won’t listen to us (Pr. 1; 15;8; 28:9; Ps. 66:18)**

**“A medium” But, if Saul had thrown them out and they knew one was there…**

**Both David and Saul are making the same mistake. Instead of repenting, they just keep digging themselves in deeper.**

**God’s will on any involvement with Mediums and their presence was clear – Lev. 19:31; 20:6, 27; Dt. 18:10-12**

**Definition of a “Medium”: (Necromancy)**

**The supposed practice of communicating with the dead, especially in order to predict the future.**

**1 Samuel 28:9-11**

**“As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing”. Really?**

**“I swear by God I won’t obey the Lord”?**

**It is very common that we do things in private that we won’t do in public.**

**That is hypocrisy. This is where integrity comes into play.**

**When we turn to alleged supernatural sources other than the Lord and His word, we are doing the same thing.**

* **Horoscopes**
* **Tarot Cards**
* **Ouija Boards**
* **Psychics**

**It should not surprise believers that supernatural encounters are real.**

**Demons have been around a long time.**

**1 Samuel 28:12-15**

**Apparently, she was not expecting this to actually work.**

**Josephus said Samuel told her.**

**Josephus: Ch. 14 – “When he appeared and the woman saw a venerable man of divine form, she was disturbed and astounded and said, "Are you not king Saul?" for Samuel told her who he was. 333 When he admitted this as true and asked her why she was so troubled she said that she saw someone of godlike form ascending. When he asked her what he looked like, how he was dressed and how old he was, she told him he was an old man of noble countenance, wearing a priestly mantle.”**

**Maybe it was part of the vision.**

**Whatever the case, she knew she was in trouble…or should have been**

**Saul had refused to listen to God. God will now not listen to Saul.**

**And, Israel is in danger of their territory being cut in half.**

**The more we refuse to respond to God’s word, the more difficult it becomes to hear it -** **Heb. 5:11-14; Matt. 13:14-15; Prov. 1**

**1 Samuel 28:16-18**

**“This isn’t mysterious!” (Saul’s situation)**

**We react in much the same way when we disobey the Lord both as individuals and a nation.**

**1 Samuel 28:19-25**

**It didn’t have to come to this.**

**Saul had known for years that he had lost the Kingdom. He himself acknowledged that David was his successor and the Lord would bless David.**

**He could have repented and been a help to David. He could have saved his life and the lives of his sons.**

**Heb. 2:1-4 – Drifting away**

**Heb. 3:1-14 (3-4) – Losing confidence; we stop believing**

**Heb. 5:11-6:9 – Not using what we’ve learned, not going on to maturity**

**Heb. 10:26 – Renouncing our faith and putting ourselves in an adversarial relationship to fellow believers and the Lord**

* **“Fire” OFTEN used in OT to depict temporal judgment (e.g., Ezek. 15)**
* **“Adversary” = someone/thing “opposed, contrary, hostile”.**
* **Greater covenant; greater responsibilities; greater judgment**
* **“By which he was sanctified”**
* **“Vengeance is mine, I will repay” Paul quotes of believers Rom 12**
* **Also used in Dt. 32 (Context = judgment on Israel)**
* **“His people”**

**Maintaining faith, maintaining confidence in what is true**

**What are we holding unto that we know is wrong?**

**What will it take in our lives?**

**It’s not going to get better and the impact will extend beyond us.**

**As a result of his sin, Saul had pulled his sons into the situation, along with an entire nation.**

**We like to think that it’s only our business, our sin, and doesn’t affect others.**

**That’s rarely true.**