

## David: A Man After God's Own Heart

### The Path to Spiritual Ruin

Saul in 1 Samuel 9-28

Saul answered, "But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?" (1 Sam 9:21)

The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you. (1 Sam 10:6-7)

The people then said to Samuel, "Who was it that asked, 'Shall Saul reign over us?' Turn these men over to us so that we may put them to death." But Saul said, "No one will be put to death today, for this day the LORD has rescued Israel." Then Samuel said to the people, "Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship." (1 Sam 11:12-14)

#### 4 stages of Spiritual Ruin:

##### **1. Wilfully tolerate subtle disobedience**

1 Samuel 13:5-13

1 Samuel 15:10-30

But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." (Vs. 14)

##### **2. Wilfully tolerate deliberate disobedience**

1 Sam 16:14-16.

##### **3. Willfully tolerate toxic relationships**

1 Sam 18:1, 16, 20.

Whatever mission Saul sent him on, David was so successful that Saul gave him a high rank in the army. This pleased all the troops, and Saul's officers as well. (Vs. 5)

When Saul saw how successful he was, he was afraid of him. (Vs. 15)

The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David met with more success than the rest of Saul's officers, and his name became well known. (Vs. 30)

Read Vv. 6-11

#### **4. Willfully betray your own values**

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in his own town of Ramah. Saul had expelled the mediums and spiritists from the land.

The Philistines assembled and came and set up camp at Shunem, while Saul gathered all Israel and set up camp at Gilboa. When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart. He inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him by dreams or Urim or prophets. Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." (1 Sam 28:3-7)

When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, 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. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. (Dt 18:9-13)

"So Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord. He failed to obey the Lord's command, and he even consulted a medium instead of asking the Lord for guidance" (1 Chronicles 10:13 *NLT*).

Herod "asked Jesus question after question, but Jesus refused to answer" (v.9, *NLT*).

" Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God"" (Leviticus 19:31 *NIV*).