



**Title** | Saul's Séance  
**Series** | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift  
**Text** | 1 Samuel 28:3-25  
**By** | Bob Kerrey  
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# Sermon Notes

1 Samuel 28:3 Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. 4 The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. 5 When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. 6 And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. 7 Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor." 8 So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you." 9 The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?" 10 But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." 11 Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me." 12 When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul." 13 The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth." 14 He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage. 15 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do." 16 And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? 17 The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David." . . . ESV

## Big Idea:

Proverbs 16:2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD evaluates the motives. CSB

## For Reflection and Application:

### Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 28:3-25. In verse 3, Saul expels mediums and necromancers, ostensibly because of God's prohibition in Leviticus 19:31. Then in verse 7, Saul seeks a medium. What does this suggest about Saul's motives for the earlier expulsion? Are outward demonstrations of religiosity reliable indicators of one's motives?

### Tuesday:

Saul had a history of trying to manipulate God. We manipulate God when we try to use him to get the most out of life on our terms instead of surrendering to God to experience his life his way. What evidence of manipulation do you see in 1 Samuel 28:3-25?

### Wednesday:

Consider some modern ways people may try to manipulate God. Praying to bend God's will to mine instead of aligning my heart with his will. Using religious activity as leverage rather than worship. Expecting God's full favor in exchange for partial obedience. Engaging in spiritual bargaining rooted in desperation instead of surrender. Invoking God talk to justify personal agendas. Using remorse and repentance for relief, not surrender. To what extent have you tried to manipulate God? Read Psalm 16:2 and Psalm 14:12.

### Thursday:

Read 1 Samuel 28:6. Why didn't the Lord answer Saul? In Samuel 28:16-19, what is Samuel's explanation? In verse 18, Samuel mentions Amalek. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-26 for the backstory on Amalek. How was Saul manipulative in that case?

### Friday:

Why do you think it is so challenging to fully surrender to God to experience his life his way? Read Matthew 10:39. How does this inform our decision to surrender?

### Daily Prayer:

Lord, I confess that, at times, I try to manipulate you to get the most out of life on my terms. Help me to surrender to you to experience your life your way. Amen.

If you would like to have the daily reflection and application emailed to you, scan the QR code or email [info@moonvalleybible.org](mailto:info@moonvalleybible.org).

