

68 Saul's kingdom is taken away

Scripture: 1 Samuel 28, 31:1-6

Memory Verse: Seek first the kingdom of God. Matt. 6:33

## Saul and the Medium of Endor

### 28

<sup>3</sup>Now Samuel was dead, and all the Israelites had shown their sadness for him. They had buried Samuel in his hometown of Ramah.

And Saul had forced out the mediums and fortune-tellers from the land of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>The Philistines came together and made camp at Shunem. Saul gathered all the Israelites and made camp at Gilboa. <sup>5</sup>When he saw the Philistine army, he was afraid. His heart pounded with fear. <sup>6</sup>He prayed to the Lord, but the Lord did not answer him through dreams, Urim or prophets. <sup>7</sup>Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium. I'll go and ask her what will happen."

His servants answered, "There is a medium in Endor."

<sup>8</sup>Then Saul put on other clothes so no one would know who he was. At night Saul and two of his men went to see the woman. Saul said to her, "Talk to a spirit for me. Call up the person I name."

<sup>9</sup>But the woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done. He has forced the mediums and fortune-tellers out from the land of Israel. You are trying to trap me and kill me."

<sup>10</sup>Saul made a promise to the woman in the name of the Lord. He said, "As surely as the Lord lives, you won't be punished for doing this."

<sup>11</sup>The woman asked, "Whom do you want me to bring up for you?"

He answered, "Bring up Samuel."

<sup>12</sup>When the woman saw Samuel, she screamed loudly. She said, "Why have you tricked me? You are Saul!"

<sup>13</sup>The king said to the woman, "Don't be afraid! What do you see?"

The woman said, "I see a spirit coming up out of the ground."

<sup>14</sup>Saul asked, "What does he look like?"

The woman answered, "An old man wearing a coat is coming up."

Then Saul knew it was Samuel, and he bowed facedown on the ground.

<sup>15</sup>Samuel asked Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"

Saul said, "I am greatly troubled. The Philistines are fighting against me. God has left me. He won't answer me anymore, either by prophets or in dreams. That's why I called you. I want you to tell me what to do."

<sup>16</sup>Samuel said, "The Lord has left you. He has become your enemy. So why do you call on me? <sup>17</sup>He has done what he said he would do. He said these things through me. He has torn the kingdom out of your hands. He has given it to one of your neighbors, David. <sup>18</sup>You did not obey the Lord. You did not show the Amalekites how angry he was with them. That's why he has done this to you today. <sup>19</sup>The Lord will give both Israel and you to the Philistines. Tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The Lord will let the Philistines defeat the army of Israel."

<sup>20</sup>Saul quickly fell to the ground and lay there. He was afraid because of what Samuel had said. He was also very weak because he had eaten nothing all that day and night.

<sup>21</sup>Then the woman came to Saul. She saw that he was really frightened. She said, "Look, I, your servant, have obeyed you. I have risked my life and done what you told me to do. <sup>22</sup>Now please listen to me. Let me give you some food. Then you may eat and have enough strength to go on your way."

<sup>23</sup>But Saul refused. He said, "I won't eat."

His servants joined the woman in asking him to eat. And he listened to them. So he got up from the ground and sat on the bed.

<sup>24</sup>The woman had a fat calf at the house. She quickly killed it. She took some flour and mixed dough with her hands. Then she baked some bread without yeast. <sup>25</sup>She put the food before them, and they ate. Then that same night they got up and left.

## The Death of Saul

**31** The Philistines fought against Israel, and the Israelites ran away from them. Many Israelites were killed at Mount Gilboa. <sup>2</sup>The Philistines fought hard against Saul and his sons. They killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. <sup>3</sup>The fighting became bad around Saul. When the archers shot at him, he was badly

wounded. <sup>4</sup>He said to the officer who carried his armor, "Pull out your sword and kill me. Then those uncircumcised men won't make fun of me and kill me." But Saul's officer refused, because he was afraid. So Saul took his own sword and threw himself on it. <sup>5</sup>The officer saw that Saul was dead. So he threw himself on his own sword. And he died with Saul. <sup>6</sup>So Saul, his three sons and the officer who carried his armor died together that day.