

1 Samuel 28 "Saul's Cold Heart Grows Colder!"

Review: A story of two hearts!

A "**David**" heart...

#1] The more open your heart is to the Lord, the more **LIGHT** He desires and loves to give to His Children.
(Prov. 3:5-6; 4:18)

A "**Saul**" heart...

#2] The more closed your heart is to the Lord, the less **LIGHT** He will give.
(Prov. 28:9, 1 Sam. 13:13-14; 15:20-23; 1 Cor. 7-10)

#3] Saul's cold heart can only bring more **DARKNESS!**
Proverbs 4:19 (NLT)
"But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over."
(Heb. 9:27; Luke 16:27-31)

#4] God is reminding Saul that when you mess up you always have two Choices:
(a) **BLAME** others and make **EXCUSES**.
(b) Take **RESPONSIBILITY** and make **CHANGES**, with the Lord's help!

Proverbs 28:13

"He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

#5] It's never too **LATE**, until it's too **LATE**.
(Prov. 1:23; Ezk 18:31-32; 2 Kings 21:11-3, 16; 2 Chron. 33:12-13; Ps 51:1-4, 7, 12)

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#4] God is reminding Saul that when you mess up you always have two Choices:

(a) _____ others and make _____.
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In 1 Samuel 28, God revealed Saul's coming death - giving him one last chance to get right before it was too late. In Luke 19, God revealed his love for Zacchaeus despite his many sins. Why do you think God can use judgment and fear - or grace and love - to bring people to repentance? Do you think one method is better than the other? Why/why not?

TAKING IT HOME

6) What do you most need to remember or put into practice from this week's message or homework?

7) *For personal reflection only* - Saul's heart remained cold and hard because he continued to make excuses and blame others for his sins. Are there any sins in your life that you've been brushing off and making excuses for? If so, take some time to repent of them now. Reflect on the following verse as you search your heart.

Proverbs 28:13 - "[13] He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of October 9, 2022

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1) In 1 Samuel 28, God didn't answer Saul when he inquired of the LORD. Can you think of a time when it seemed like God wasn't answering you? What happened? Did you learn anything from that experience?

Why do you think it can sometimes feel like God doesn't answer our prayers?

QUICK REVIEW

2) In your own words, what happened in 1 Samuel 28?

3) What stood out to you from this Sunday's message? (Favorite point, favorite verse, questions, etc)

DIGGING DEEPER

4) Consider how Saul must have felt after Samuel told him Israel would lose the battle, and that Saul and his sons would die tomorrow. Use the following verse to help - but put yourself in Saul's shoes to come up with more.

1 Samuel 28:20 - "[20] Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, and was dreadfully afraid because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten no food all day or all night."

Why do you think God allowed Saul to feel so fearful, discouraged, and hopeless?

At this point, what do you think God desired for Saul?

What are some things we often turn to today when we are feeling fearful, discouraged, and hopeless?

What encouragement would you give a Christian friend who is feeling discouraged and fearful about the future?

Would you give different encouragement to a non-Christian friend? Why or why not? (And if yes, what would it be?)

5) This week we learned about God's grace - how even the worst of sinners can be saved, even near the end of their lives! What stands out to you from the following passage?

Luke 19:1-10 - "[1] Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. [2] Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. [3] And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. [4] So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." [6] So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. [7] But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." [8] Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." [9] And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; [10] "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'""

What does this passage teach us about God's attitude towards sinners?

How did God's grace impact Zacchaeus' heart?

Why do you think the crowd complained in verse 7?

In what ways can you be more gracious towards others?