

Reflection 01 July 2018 – by Renee Valenzuela

Samuel 28:3-25

Pope Paul VI Homily: Maniliae habita die 29 novembris 1970

In the readings today, we see the effects of Saul's disobedience to God. Our actions and reactions to God's will in our lives matter a great deal in our spiritual and physical wellbeing. When Samuel anointed Saul as the King of Israel, it could have been forever, but his continuous disobedience to God robbed him of that blessing and thus it was passed on to David. When God abandoned Saul, Saul turned to the occult for his spiritual needs, further separating him from God.

Divination and necromancy are disallowed in the church for good reason. We do not understand the depth of trouble we cause for ourselves when we turn to these means for insight. Divination is the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means. Necromancy is the practice of communicating with the dead, especially to gain the knowledge of the future. Knowledge of the future belongs to God alone. Seeking this knowledge is forbidden by God, because this is in direct conflict with the first commandment and as thus, a mortal sin. When we put God first in our lives, we entrust our lives to God. We should trust that God always has our best interest in mind, despite what our circumstances may appear to be. This practice can also be seen as a form of adultery as well. We, members of the Church, the Bride of Christ, turn to another to "fulfill needs."

Adam and Eve also sought the knowledge of God by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We know that God left them, just as He left Saul. As Adam and Eve brought death into the world, Saul brought death to his own reign as King of Israel.

Pope Paul VI reminds us that we must proclaim Christ to the whole world. Following his resurrection, Christ commanded us to go and make disciples of all the nations. In proclaiming Christ, we demonstrate our trust in Him by abandoning our own ambitions for the works we're called to do. Discernment is not divination nor necromancy, because discerning the will and call of the living God is our duty as Christians. We are all baptized to be priests, prophets and kings.

Proclaiming Christ to the whole world is the duty and call of every Christian. We are called to love God first in our lives and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We can do this using many methods. We study scripture daily in our praying the Liturgy of the Hours, praying the rosary, or reading scripture. This feeds our souls and we ought not keep this feast to ourselves. We must share this spiritual food with the hungry, helping those in need to nourish their souls with the Bread of Life, the Word made flesh, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through Jesus; it is our duty, therefore, to feed his sheep, find the lost, and bring them home.

O God, sanctify us that we may be instruments of your holy will. Open our eyes to see the path you've laid for us. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to accept your will in all things. Open our minds to understand your commands. Open our mouths to proclaim your holy name to the world without fear. Bless us O Lord, and ready us for your holy mission of evangelization. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.