

## 1 Samuel 28:4-7

*Then the Philistines gathered together, and came and encamped at Shunem. So Saul gathered all Israel together, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor."*

What have you been praying about lately and it seems that the Lord has not, or will not answer you? So in your response, you take things on yourself or look to other means instead of waiting on God. Now I do admit, it is hard sometimes when we have to wait on God, because we know the urgency of the situation and if God does not answer right now, I'll be forced to do... What?

It reminds me of a true story in the bible about two sisters, Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus who was very sick. Messengers were sent to Jesus to let Him know about Lazarus so that Jesus could come and heal their brother. It was a life and death situation. So what was Jesus' response?

† **John 11:5-6** *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.*

Wait, wait, wait a minute, Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus, so He does nothing to help them for two days? Yes he did wait, even though Lazarus may have been in pain, and Mary and Martha were in pain seeing their brother like this, Jesus still waited two days before he even headed to where they were. We all should know the story of how Jesus did eventually come and how Lazarus died before Jesus got there, and was dead for four days once He did arrive. Four days of heartache and pain for Mary and Martha, yet it says that Jesus loves them. We wonder, how can this be love?

Sure Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, but still how many days of pain and heartache did they all have to go through?

We don't always understand the things that God does, or even how He loves or shows His love sometimes. Just like, even though Jesus told the disciples He was going to die and rise from the dead on the third day, still when Jesus was crucified, the disciples were heartbroken.

But God's love towards us was the death of His Son, Jesus, because Jesus had to die to pay for our sins.

Okay, you may be thinking, so why did Lazarus have to die? Ah, God is so good, because He tells us why.

† **John 12:9-11** *Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.*

Did you see it? ***Because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.***

Lazarus, Mary and Martha did not understand why Lazarus had to die. It seemed there was no love in him dying. Ah, but that is where they we're wrong, it was because of Lazarus' death and Jesus raising him from the dead that God showed His love. Because of Lazarus death and Jesus raising him from the dead ***many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.***

Talk about a testimony. Will your testimony be that you waited on the Lord and He did awesome things in your life because you did. Or will your testimony be like Saul's who didn't wait on the Lord and he went to the world for answers, and if you read the story, the answer he got was not a good one.

† ***1 Samuel 28:16-19 Then Samuel said: "Why then do you ask me, seeing the LORD has departed from you and has become your enemy? And the LORD has done for Himself as He spoke by me. For the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD nor execute His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with you into the hand of the Philistines. And tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also deliver the army of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."***