

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 17TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

PROVISION (1 SAMUEL 21:1-9)

"WHY ARE YOU ALONE...?"

David, now fully aware of Saul's intentions, flees to the priest, Ahimelech, at Nob.

- **Ahimelech was nervous or scared for David, not of David.** He probably was looking pretty rough as he approached Ahimelech, and **it was strange and dangerous for a prominent figure to be traveling alone.**

IS LYING OKAY?

David lied about his reason for coming to Nob, lied to Ahimelech by putting words in Saul's mouth about the secrecy of his mission, and then lied about being alone.

- Though we can understand, maybe even sympathize with David's lie, **a lie told even for self-preservation is still a lie, and it is still wrong.**

DAVID ASKS FOR THE HOLY BREAD

The Tabernacle contained 12 loaves of bread, called **showbread**, on a table, representing God's continual fellowship with Israel.

- Culturally, enjoying a meal together signified a permanent and sacred bond of friendship. **To eat the showbread was to be invited as a friend to the Lord's table to partake of His hospitality.**

ENTERING INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

The showbread was always to be fresh and was **not to be treated casually**. Fresh bread was to be brought out to replace the old bread, must be treated as holy, and was only to be eaten by priests (Leviticus 24:8-9).

- This is how we should receive our invitation into God's presence: **with the reverence and the freshness He deserves.**

DAVID RECEIVES THE OLD SHOWBREAD

Ahimelech broke priestly customs by giving David the consecrated bread, but **he understood that meeting basic human needs was more important than Levitical observance.**

- **Jesus refers to this passage when his disciples were criticized for breaking religious customs (Matthew 12:1-8) to show that he approved of Ahimelech's actions.**

SAUL'S SERVANT WAS HELD AGAINST HIS WILL

One of Saul's servants, the **"chief of [his] shepherds,"** was present as David requested a weapon from Ahimelech. We are not given details of his being **"detained before the Lord,"** but based on his character, it was probably out of obligation to Saul and not to God.

- The word **"chief"** used to describe Doeg can mean **violent or obstinate**, which is fitting.

GOLIATH'S SWORD IS OFFERED TO DAVID

David's faith once towered over a giant to the point where he was content to go into battle with a simple sling and his trust in the Living God.

- Now, he had relied on lies, deception, and Goliath's sword to protect himself. As David held the sword, he should have remembered how he came to possess it. **David forgot he was given victory because of his radical faith.**

PURPOSE IN HIS PLAN

God had great things in store for David, but **he had to learn to stay faithful through hardship and adversity.**

- Similar to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness after leaving Egypt, **God would use this time in exile to teach David how to live by faith and how to trust His purposes and will.**

MADNESS (1 SAMUEL 21:10-15)

DAVID'S ACTIONS ARE INSANE

David's attempt to protect himself with lies would eventually be discovered, so he had to flee again.

- David found himself among the Philistines. He had entered into the land occupied by the enemies of God. Gath was Goliath's hometown, and David entered carrying the sword that killed Goliath. **David had put himself in a position to deceive others again.**

DAVID BECAME VERY AFRAID

The Philistines in Gath recognized David and knew of the song sung throughout Israel about his many victories in battle (1 Samuel 18:6-7).

- David knew he had been discovered and became fearful for his life because **he knew the King of Gath would not allow the "champion" of Israel to live after killing Goliath.**

WAS DAVID'S "SHOW" OF THE SPIRIT OR FLESH?

Though it is not detailed here, Psalm 56 points out that David was captured when he came to Gath and shows his journey from fear to faith while he praises God in captivity.

- David could have faltered again, pretending to be crazy so he would be let go, and God could have used this humiliating show to turn David back to Him.

"I SOUGHT THE LORD..."

Psalm 34 was written **"concerning David, when he pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him out, and he departed."** For the Philistines, *Abimelech* was a title given to the king, which refers to King Achish of Gath.

- David writes of his **turning from "deceitful speech" to praising God who rescued him.**

INCREASING PARANOIA (1 SAMUEL 22:1-5)

PREPARATION FOR WHAT'S NEXT

David leaves Gath and seeks refuge in the cave of Adullam, which literally means refuge.

- God would use this time to **raise up the future king of Israel** and **show David how to find refuge in Him in the midst of danger and not on the other side of it.** It was during this time that David penned Psalms 142 and 57.

DAVID'S FAMILY RECONCILES

"David's brothers and his father's whole family" heard David was in the cave, and they went to him.

- This is a beautiful reunion, considering how **David was disregarded by his father** at the feast with Samuel (16:11), and **his brother falsely accused** him on the frontlines of battle (17:28).

"[THEY] RALLIED AROUND HIM..."

David became the leader of 400 people whose lives were not put together; they had problems of their own, they weren't successful, they were downtrodden, and they knew the bitterness of life.

- **When we recognize our distress, our debt, our bankruptcy, and our discontentment, then we should be driven to seek the refuge found in Christ.**

TRUST AND OBEY

David was uncertain of the battles he would soon face, so he wanted to ensure his parents were safe by taking them to Moab.

- David's family was with him while he was in the "stronghold," but the prophet Gad told David he was to leave his earthly fortress, the stronghold, and return to the land of Judah.

"THERE IS NONE LIKE IT!"

- David knew the significance of the sword Ahimelech offered to him. It was precious and wonderful in his sight, so he desired to have it, saying, **"Give it to me."**
- If this was true of Goliath's sword, **how much truer is it of the sword of the Spirit, God's Word (Ephesians 6:17)?**
- **Is it precious and wonderful in our sight?**
- **Do we desire to possess it, saying, "Give it to me?"**
- **Have we discarded the sword we once possessed or displayed it on a shelf, believing it is rusty, old, and no longer of use?**
- **In Christian warfare, we need rigid training to know how to handle the sword.**