

1 Samuel Lesson 39 David As A Fugitive

Key Themes in 1 Samuel

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Nob: Following the destruction of Shiloh around 1000 BC the center of religious activity for the Israelites became Nob where the high priest and other priests were located. We know from 1 Samuel 21 that the ephod and the table with the bread of The Presence was there. Other items from the tabernacle may have been there as well. It was located just south of Gibeah on the road to Jerusalem.

Ahimelech: Ahimelech was the High Priest at Nob when David fled there.. He was a descendent of Aaron, the great grandson of Eli, and the grandson of Phineas.

Bread of the Presence: 12 loaves of freshly baked bread were placed on the table of the Presence. They were replaced with new loaves each Sabbath. The bread which was removed was for the priests to eat. (Lev 24:5-9)

Doeg The Edomite: He was employed by Saul as his "chief shepherd". This title was often used in Bible Times for anyone in an administrative position. Since he was a foreigner he could have been a mercenary for Saul.

Read I Samuel 21:1-9

David was a fugitive, running for his life from King Saul. David, along with some companions, fled to Nob, south of Gibeah where Saul resided.

1. According to 1 Samuel 21:2 what did David tell Ahimelech the priest when he arrived in Nob? What sin did David commit? At this point in time who or what was David relying on? What might have motivated him? What did David do that was right? See 1 Samuel 22:9-10

Application: Temptation to sin is especially strong when we are under pressure or facing danger. How can we avoid giving in to the temptation in either or both of these circumstances?

2. David asked the priest for bread. According to 21:4-5 what kind of bread did Ahimelech have available and on what condition was he willing to give it to David?

3. Read Leviticus 24:5-9. According to this passage to whom should the removed bread be given? In 1 Samuel 21:8 why did the priest give David the bread and what does it reveal about the priest's heart in regard to the law?

4. Read Matthew 12:1-8. How did Jesus use this incident in the life of David to teach the Pharisees about legalism? In 12:7 what did Jesus say that God desires and how does Ahimelech demonstrate that quality?

Application: What are some examples of legalism in the church or among Christians today? What is the difference between the letter of the law and the spirit of the law?

5. What else did David ask Ahimelech for in 21: 8? Why would David have been entitled to it?

Application: God provided David with food and a weapon for his journey. We who are saved are on a spiritual journey. What spiritual food and weapons does God provide for us?