

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[1Sa 21:1-15 NKJV] 1 Now David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech was afraid when he met David, and said to him, "Why [are] you alone, and no one is with you?"

When we left David last week, he was a fugitive.

And the reason that he was a fugitive was that King Saul was threatened by his presence.

King Saul was envious of all the accolades that David was receiving from the people, so he is on a mission to have David killed.

And we have already read the accounts of King Saul attempting to kill David himself as well as having David killed by other people.

So David realizes that he could no longer stay where he was - so he makes a run for it.

And the first place that he runs to is this city of Nob.

The significance of the city of Nob is that it is a city where the priests reside in.

So we see David seeking council in the house of the Lord.

Now, when Ahimelech sees David by himself – he suspects that something is not right.

After all, David is a member of Saul's court.

He is Saul's son-in-law.

He is a leader in the Israelite army.

David should have been traveling accompanied by his entourage.

With armor bearers and other personnel.

It would be considered extremely dangerous for David to be traveling alone.

It also appears that Ahimelech has not received word that David is a fugitive and wanted by Saul.

So Ahimelech suspects that there is something wrong and starts to ask questions.

2 So David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has ordered me on some business, and said to me, 'Do not let anyone know anything about the business on which I send you, or what I have commanded you.' And I have directed [my] young men to such and such a place.

David responds to Ahimelech's question by saying, "I am on a secret mission from the king"

Is this the reason that David is in Nob? Of course not, David is lying.

Why is David lying???

- David is need of help. He's been on the run – he is hungry.
- David thinks that by lying, he is going to somehow protect the priests. If the priests helped David and were later questioned by Saul – they could always say, “We didn't know he was a fugitive”

The problem with this is that David resorts to lying.

And his lie is going to bring a lot of pain and have severe consequences.

Instead of placing his trust in the Lord, David's lie is eventually going to result in the death of 85 priests – and we will see this at the end of our study in the very next chapter.

The truth is that whether we admit it or not, we have a tendency to lie.

Especially when it doesn't appear like it is going to hurt anyone – or we might benefit from the lie.

David should have told Ahimelech the truth and allow Ahimelech the right to make the decision whether or not he was going to help out David.

3 "Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give [me] five [loaves of] bread in my hand, or whatever can be found." 4 And the priest answered David and said, "[There is] no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women." 5 Then David answered the priest, and said to him, "Truly, women [have been] kept from us about three days since I came out. And the vessels of the young men are holy, and [the bread is] in effect

common, even though it was consecrated in the vessel this day."

After lying to the priest, David makes his request. I am hungry. I need food now and I will need food for the immediate future.

The priest responds with – we are all out of wonder bread – all we have is the holy bread.

Now, in the book of Leviticus (24:5-9), we have the institution of how they were supposed to bake, how often was it supposed to be replaced and how as it supposed to be presented in the tabernacle.

What is the significance behind this holy bread/showbread?

Literally, it means “bread of faces.” It is bread associated with, and to be eaten before the face of God. To eat the showbread was to eat God’s bread in God’s house as a friend and a guest of the Lord, enjoying His hospitality and His fellowship.

It was reserved for the priests.

And Ahimelech starts to bring up all the requirements and rules for partaking of this bread, while David attempt to reason with him.

Turn with me to Matt 12 – because Jesus references this event that we have been reading about in 1 Samuel.

[Mat 12:1-8 NKJV] 1 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. 2

And when the Pharisees saw [it], they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" 3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 "how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? 5 "Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? 6 "Yet I say to you that in this place there is [One] greater than the temple. 7 "But if you had known what [this] means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. 8 "For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Jesus used this story of David's to show that God was concerned about people, "I desire mercy / compassion, and not sacrifice".

You see, the Jews had taken the Law and made their traditions so detailed and intricate that they made life strict and harsh.

They would have rather let David and his men starve than break **their** interpretation of the Law.

6 So the priest gave him holy [bread]; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD, in order to put hot bread [in its place] on the day when it was taken away. 7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul [was] there that day, detained before the LORD. And his name [was] **Doeg, an**

Edomite, the chief of the herdsmen who [belonged] to **Saul**.

The priest gives David the old bread that had just been replaced in the tabernacle and as this is going on, this person Doeg hears the entire conversation and we will find out that he goes and tells Saul everything that happened there at Nob.

For extra credit, you guys can read Psalm 52, because Psalm 52 is written by David in response to what happens here with Doeg and what happens as a result of it.

8 And David said to Ahimelech, "Is there not here on hand a spear or a sword? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."

Now, by this time, Ahimelech must be thinking to himself – man, this guy doesn't pack a lunch when he travels and he doesn't even bring his weapons with him.

What wrong with him???

9 So the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, there it is, wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take [it]. For [there is] no other except that one here." And David said, "[There is] none like it; give it to me."

David must have been ecstatic to hear that Goliath sword was before him. After all, he himself said – “There is none like it”

If there is none like it – how did Goliath get beat???

Church, David has the sword of Goliath now – but he would have been much better off having the faith that resulted in the death of Goliath.

David is placing his trust in the sword of a Philistine instead of the God that delivered the Israelites at the hand of the giant.

10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

Once again we see David flee, you see, his lies could only protect him for a short time.

And because he failed to place his trust in the Lord, we find David making irrational decisions.

He flees, hoping to find refuge among the enemies of Israel.

Gath is the birthplace of Goliath – and here David is walking into Gath, holding the sword of their fallen champion.

11 And the servants of Achish said to him, "[Is] this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"

I find it interesting that the Philistines considered David greater than Saul.

The Philistines consider David as the king – not Saul.

Yet, we find David fleeing Saul.

Now, turn with me to Psalm 56.

Because 1 Samuel doesn't record it – but David get captured by the Philistines when he comes into Gath.

But I want you to notice a change in David.

[Psa 56:1-13 NKJV] 1 To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands." A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath. Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. 2 My enemies would hound [me] all day, For [there are] many who fight against me, O Most High. 3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. 4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? 5 All day they twist my words; All their thoughts [are] against me for evil. 6 They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God! 8 You

number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle;
[Are they] not in Your book? 9 When I cry out [to You],
Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because
God [is] for me. 10 In God (I will praise [His] word), In the
LORD (I will praise [His] word), 11 **In God I have put my
trust; I will not be afraid.** What can man do to me? 12
Vows [made] to You [are binding] upon me, O God; I will
render praises to You, **13 For You have delivered my
soul from death.** [Have You] not [kept] my feet from
falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the
living?

It is at this point, that David's backsliding comes to an end.

He returns to the Lord.

That was the difference between David and Saul – Saul never turned back to the Lord, Saul just kept on sliding.

12 Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 13 So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. 14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? 15 "Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this [fellow] to play the madman in my presence? Shall this [fellow] come into my house?"

David pretends to be insane and it causes the King of Gath to drive out David from his land.

[1Sa 22:1-23 NKJV] 1 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard [it], they went down there to him. 2 And everyone [who was] in distress, everyone who [was] in debt, and everyone [who was] discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

David leaves Gath and he hides out in the caves of Adullam.

Psalm 142 and Psalm 57 were written by David during his time that he hid out here.

We find David no longer by himself, his family is now joined him.

He has a group of 400 misfits or losers that God has brought to David as He continues to prepare him for the kingdom.

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." 4 So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

Although David is in a much better place than he was in chapter 21, he decides to hide his family in Moab. Why Moab?

Because his great grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabite

I asked you to make a note - Till I know what God will do for me:

David doesn't know the whole story.

He knew he was called and anointed to be the next king of Israel, but he had no idea how God would get him there.

David had to trust and obey when he didn't know what God would do.

5 Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

Here we have God communicating to David through the prophet David – that it was time to leave his safe place and go back to the area that belonged to Saul.

When it was just David fleeing, it was easy for him to hide – but now, he is running around with 400 other guys and as we will see, this will make it easy for them to find them.

6 When Saul heard that David and the men who [were] with him had been discovered--now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him-- 7 then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, [and] make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? 8 "All of you have conspired against me, and [there is] no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and [there is] not one of

you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as [it is] this day."

Saul wants the people to feel sorry for him. So he begins to make up these elaborate conspiracies against him – even regarding Jonathan.

Remember that with Saul, everything revolved around him.

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 10 "And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

As Saul is focusing his anger toward his own men, Doeg adds fire to Saul's paranoia by revealing to Saul everything

that he had seen and heard between David and the priests (last chapter) and he also adds to the story.

He makes the claim that the priests were conspiring with David all along on how to go against Saul.

11 So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who [were] in Nob. And they all came to the king. 12 And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" He answered, "Here I am, my lord."

Ahimelech has a clear conscious – remember, he still thinks that David was on a secret mission from Saul. He doesn't know why he has been called by Saul.

13 Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have

given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?" 14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants [is as] faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? 15 "Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, [or] to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much." 16 And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" 17 Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also [is] with David, and because

they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." **But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.**

Saul's servants feared God more than Saul and they refused to murder the priests.

18 And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. 19 Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep--with the edge of the sword.

A few weeks ago Saul was given a command by God to kill all the Amalekites – to take no prisoners.

And he refused to be obedient to that charge. He failed to kill all of Israel's enemies.

But notice that he has no reservations in ordering the murder of the Lord priests.

You see, as he slid farther and farther away, Saul's anger turned against God – for taking away his kingdom and giving it to another.

So he takes his rage out on the Lord's priests,

20 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. 22 So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite [was] there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused [the death] of all the

persons of your father's house. 23 "Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you [shall be] safe."

David recognizes the consequences of his white lies.

Even though he had stopped back sliding and started to place his trust back in the Lord, there were still going to be consequences for his actions.

In the same way, we still face the consequences of our sins even after we have repented from them and have been forgiven of them.

Let's pray...