



Life of

DAVID

The Making of a King

Forced into Exile

1 Samuel 21 & 22

Lesson 6

Background Information

Through no fault of his own, David was on the run for about ten years after being forced into exile. Separated from friend and family he dealt with fear, hunger, lies and accusations that were hurled against him. He had lost his way, resorting to lies and deception as a means of trying to stay alive. There in the wilderness, others who were in *distress, debt and discontent* gathered together to him.

David's plight deepened as he realized his actions were affecting everyone he came in contact with. As Saul's delusions worsened, he took his anger out on anyone who tried to aid David. Feeling alone and afraid, David sunk into the darkness of his own soul, but it was there that he cried out to God. Psalm 34 & 57 exposes the depth of his sorrow and the lessons he learned as he drew close to God in his darkest moments.

Treasures of the Heart

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You;

And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,

Until these calamities have passed by. Psalm 57:1



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

1 Samuel 21:1-9

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?"

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. **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."

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.

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."

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."

1 Samuel 22:6-19

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."

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."

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."

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. **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.



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What does it mean?

What **lesson** can I draw from my observations? **Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?”** Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

1 Samuel 21:1-9 _____

1 Samuel 21:10-15 _____

1 Samuel 22:1-5 _____

1 Samuel 22:6-19 _____

1 Samuel 22:20-23 _____



How can I apply it?

Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 words or less)

1 Samuel 21:1-9 _____

1 Samuel 21:10-15 _____

1 Samuel 22:1-5 _____

1 Samuel 22:6-19 _____

1 Samuel 22:20-23 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



Understanding the Heart . . .

See if you can discover the **heart attitude** of those in the story. What emotions are they dealing with? What is God teaching them? How do they respond? How should they respond?

The Heart of David:

The Heart of the people:

The Heart of God:

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

1 Samuel 21:1-9 _____

1 Samuel 21:10-15 _____

1 Samuel 22:1-5 _____

1 Samuel 21:6-19 _____

1 Samuel 21:20-23 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth . . .

God's abundant provision made for *David* even in his exile. He is given the very holy bread ... This bread, representing the presence of God, is a picture of that secret ministering to everyone who is undergoing difficult problems, yet looking to God for deliverance.

— Ray Steadman

