

26. How did these men honor David? Does their willingness to follow David instead of Saul tell you anything about their character?
27. Considering the number of people who followed David into the cave, how big do you think the Cave of Adullam was?
28. Why do you think David sent his family to Moab? What does this tell you about David's love for his family?
(Read 1 Samuel 22:3-4)

Note: David wrote at least eight psalms during the time he was forced to flee Saul; Psalms 34,52,56,57,59,63, and 142. It seems that 142 was the first one written at a time when David brought to nothing. In Psalm 57, David is on his knees turning back to God. In Psalm 34, David now admonishes his men to “magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt His name together.” David has returned to his God, and has been delivered!

29. After David's return to the Lord, to whom did he turn for council? Why did it take faith to do as the prophet of God had commanded? (Read 1 Samuel 22:5)

IV. THE LESSONS OF DAVID. No man lives to himself, and no man dies to himself. Remember, we skipped 1 Samuel 21:7 about Doeg the Edomite. This was a descendant of Esau who were not exactly friendly with God's people. Nevertheless, Doeg was a trusted servant of Saul. And we can only speculate as to why Doeg was with the priests at Nob. Maybe he was a going through the process of becoming a Jew.

30. Describe Saul's pity-party. (1 Samuel 22:6-8)
31. What do you think was Doeg's motive for telling?
(1 Samuel 22:9-10)
32. What accusation did Saul make against Ahimelech?
(Read 1 Samuel 22:11-13)
33. What was Ahimelech's defense? (Read 1 Samuel 22:14-15)

Second Baptist Church Sunday School Lessons Week 4 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 21-22

REACHING AN ALL-TIME LOW

David's path to the throne was not a velvet covered one, but one that was extremely rugged with many bumpy trials. However, all of David's trials helped him to be a better person and a better king. Before we can really appreciate the magnitude of this lesson, we need to give a look at 1 Samuel 20. It is to your advantage to read this entire chapter for, not only is it the background for today's study, but it conveys the real heartbreak between David and Jonathan as they parted ways for the rest of their lives. The events in this chapter led to David's life as a fugitive from Saul for the rest of Saul's life. Prior to this time, David had been forced to leave Saul's presence only temporarily. The placement of Jonathan's arrows indeed was the sign of David's destiny to be permanently out of Saul's presence. There were times as I read this passage that tears came to my eyes because David and Jonathan again and again expressed their deep abiding love and friendship one for the other. And, in my humble opinion, Jonathan is one of the most over-looked men of God in the entire scriptures. One can only imagine what their reunion must have been like when David entered the Portals of Glory. Can't you see David's Great-Great Grandson embracing His servant David (and His granddad!) and welcoming him into life everlasting, and then Jonathan stepping out from behind with arms wide-opened! What a reunion!

1. Why do you think David had no fear when he faced Goliath, but was terribly afraid of Saul?
2. How does David's fear show his lack of faith in the Lord?
3. Why do you think it was so hard for Jonathan to believe that his father was trying to kill David? (1 Samuel 20:2)
4. How was Jonathan's friendship like unto Christ's?
(Read 1 Samuel 20:4 and John 14:13)

5. What did it cost Jonathan to be David's friend? What did it cost Jesus to be our Friend?
6. How did the position that the arrows landed tell David what to do?
7. What promise did David and Jonathan make to one another?

I. DAVID WAS DEFILED BEFORE AHIMELECH. Nob was the place where the Tabernacle was relocated from Shiloh after Israel's defeat by the Philistines. It was about five or six miles from Gibeah, the dwelling place of Saul and where David and Jonathan met to discuss David's plight.

8. Why was David's approach (the way he came to see him) to Ahimelech not a good one? (Read 1 Samuel 21:1)
9. What was wrong with what David told Ahimelech about his visit? What parts were lies and what part was truth? (Read 1 Samuel 21:2)
10. What was the first request of David? How was it answered? (Read 1 Samuel 21:3-6)?
11. Was it wrong for the priest to give David the showbread of the Tabernacle? Why? (Read Matthew 12:1-8)
12. In what danger was David putting Ahimelech? How did David defile himself before Ahimelech the Priest?

II. DAVID WAS DEGRADED BEFORE ACHISH. David had left Gibeah so quickly, he hadn't taken time to obtain any weapons at all. You may think it strange that the Tabernacle was the place the weapons were kept, but these were trophies of God's deliverance from Israel's enemies.

13. What did David now request of the Priest? What did Ahimelech give David for a weapon? (Read 1 Samuel 21:8-9)
14. Looking closely at the end of verse 9, do you think David placed too much value on the weapon? Had the sword done Goliath any good?

15. In light of today's world events, what is your best weapon? What would have been David's best weapon? (Read Ephesians 6:13)
16. Where did David go to hide? Why was this place an absurd place to hide? (Read 1 Samuel 21:10 and you may even have to go back to 1 Samuel 17:4)
17. Do you think the people of Gath were glad to have David visit them? Why? (Read 1 Samuel 21:11)
18. What results had David's lying caused in his own heart? (Read 1 Samuel 21:12)
19. Did David resort to the Lord for help or did he resort to more lies? (Read 1 Samuel 21:13))
20. How did Achish react to David's "madness"? (1 Samuel 21:14-15)
21. How was David degraded before Achish?
22. Even though his sin and lack of trust in the Lord, did God show grace to David?
23. Because of God's grace, do we have the right to sin? (Read Romans 5:20 & 6:1-2)

III. DAVID WAS DELIVERED BEFORE ADULLAM. The cave of Adullam was located in the valley of Elah in the vicinity where David killed Goliath. The cave was named after a nearby town, Adullam, which was a very ancient city. It is mentioned in Genesis 38:1, 12, 20 and in Joshua 12:15. Although the cave offered a place of sanctuary for David, it was certainly a lowly place for the anointed king of Israel. Also interesting is the fact that Adullam was only about ten miles from Bethlehem.

24. Who came to be with David in the Cave of Adullam? Do you find it odd that his family joined him now? Why? (1 Samuel 22:1-2)
25. What does 1 Samuel 22:2 say to you about the reign of Saul?

34. What did Saul ordered to be done to Ahimelech?
(Read 1 Samuel 22:16)
35. Who refused to kill the priests? Who volunteered to do it?
(Read 1 Samuel 22:17-20)
36. How many priests were killed? How many others in the city of Nob? Who escaped?
37. Where did Abiathar go? Did David realize the consequences of his actions? (1 Samuel 22:21-23)
38. Did God forgive David of his actions? If so, then why didn't the Lord take away the consequences?
39. Even though God will forgive us of our sins, why is it so important that we do all we can not to sin?

CONCLUSION: The deed of Doeg was terrible indeed, but it was also a fulfillment of a predicted judgment that was to come upon Eli's descendants because of the sin that went on in the priesthood when Eli was high priest (see 1 Samuel 2:31). In 1 Samuel 14:3 we find the family connection between Eli and Ahimelech. Doeg may have been a Jewish proselyte on the outside, but he was still an Edomite on the inside. He was a wicked man, and to Saul's condemnation, this man, and not David, was Saul's friend and associate. Saul, out of God's will, sought bad counsel. So did David. Saul, out of God's fellowship, made bad choices. So did David. Saul, out of God's will, set in motion bad consequences. So did David. Both men suffered consequences of their choices. What was the difference? David repented.

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