

## Lesson 4 – 1 Samuel 21-25

Text: 1 Samuel 21-25

Main Characters: God, David, Saul, Ahimelech, Doeg, Abigail, Nabal, Philistines

Key Passages:

- 1 Samuel 22:17-18 – When Saul ordered the deaths of the priests, his guards would not obey.
- 1 Samuel 23:14 – David escaped from Saul continually because of God's constant care.
- 1 Samuel 24:10-12 – David refused to harm Saul, the Lord's anointed; he left it up to the Lord.

Main Storyline:

David, alone and on the run from Saul, arrived at the city of Nob, where Ahimelech the priest lived. Ahimelech was afraid initially, perhaps suspecting something was wrong when David approached him without his army. David lied to Ahimelech, explaining that he was on a secret mission from Saul that he could not discuss, and he asked him for some food and a weapon. Ahimelech obliged David, providing him with some old showbread from the tabernacle and the sword of Goliath. Saul's chief herdsman, Doeg, witnessed this transaction occurring between David and Ahimelech.

David left Israel and went to Achish, the Philistine king at Gath. When he arrived, Achish's servants recognized David as the man who had been so successful against them. David recognized that he was in danger and began to pretend to be insane. When David was brought before Achish, Achish was disgusted that his men would waste his time with an insane man. David was then allowed to leave.

He escaped to the cave of Adullam, where his brothers and others came to meet him. In fact, many who were discontented or otherwise in trouble came to lend their support to David. David, worried for his parents, placed them under the care of the Moabite king.

Saul eventually heard about where David had been hiding, and he accused his men of conspiring with and being bribed by David. Doeg spoke up, however, and revealed that Ahimelech had helped David earlier. Saul summoned Ahimelech, who denied knowing anything about David's "rebellion" against him. Saul did not believe Ahimelech, however, so he ordered his and his family's deaths. Saul's guards refused to kill the priest and his family, so Doeg took matters into his own hands, killing them all except for one son of Ahimelech who escaped, Abiathar. Abiathar told David what Saul had done, so David promised to protect him. David continued to elude Saul in the wilderness through God's help.

One day, Saul and three thousand men went off to search for David in the wilderness. Saul needed to relieve himself, so he went into a cave; at the same time, David and his men were hiding in the back of the same cave. David's men encouraged David to kill Saul, but David rebuked them, reminding them that they should not harm the Lord's anointed. Instead, David cut off a piece of Saul's robe to prove that he could have killed him. David later confronted Saul with the piece of robe, and Saul broke down and confessed his sin to David. David swore to Saul that he would not cut off Saul's family. Samuel died shortly after this event.

In his travels, David came near to Carmel, where he heard that a man named Nabal was shearing his sheep. David had taken care of Nabal's shepherds and sheep in the past, and David was hoping to get some assistance from Nabal. Nabal refused, however, and David angrily prepared to kill Nabal. Nabal's wife, Abigail, heard about it, however and interceded for her husband save his life. When Nabal heard what Abigail had done, his heart stopped, and he died. David took Abigail as his wife.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Life without God leads to ungodliness and selfishness; these are traits which no one respects.
- 2.) Even when doing something wrong would make things easier, we must be careful to obey God.