

1 Samuel 21

It is during David's time in exile that we really start to see resemblances between him and Christ. For example, Matthew 12:1-8, Mark 2:25-26, and Luke 6:3-5 all recount the incident here with the showbread. Jesus draws the parallel between David and Himself in response to the Pharisees' criticism that He and His disciples have plucked grains of wheat in violation of the prohibition against work on the Sabbath. The Lord declares His supremacy over the law, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

As Mr. Kelly says, "Ceremonial restrictions of the law are all well enough where things go truly according to the law; but what of Him who is the central object to which all its ordinances turn, if He be cast out for God's sake, and He and His be thus in want? Would God sustain those forms against the man of his own heart?"

Questions for study and discussion:

1. Why is Ahimelech trembling in verse 1?
2. Is David telling the truth in verse 2?
3. What is the significance of Doeg being an Edomite?

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Impossible! And therefore the priest gives him the hallowed bread; for there was no bread there except the show-bread taken from before Jehovah to be the food of the priests." The law is meant for the ungodly, not to keep needed food from David in exile in the desert and the Son of God in exile on a sinful earth.

But in this chapter we have a stark reminder that David is only a type, and still subject to human weakness. He acts deceptively before the priest and the Philistines alike. But this only displays God's grace to an undeserving sinner. David's deep consciousness of the grace of God inspires many Psalms written during this time.

Notes

21:1 The tabernacle may have been located at Nob.

21:3 See Leviticus 24:9 for instructions on the bread.

4. Why would Goliath's sword be stored behind the ephod, the sacred priest's garment?

5. Why do you think David seeks refuge among the Philistines, Israel's enemy? Is there a lesson for us?

6. Why does David fake insanity?

7. Read Psalm 34, written during this time. How does David's inner thought life differ from his outward actions?