

David's Refuge

1 Samuel 21:1-9

Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?"² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place."³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here."⁴ And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women."⁵ And David answered the priest, "Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?"⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen.

⁸ Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste."⁹ And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

Outline

- I. Introduction
 - A. God looks at the heart, not outward appearances
 - B. David's heart was set on following God, even in times of distress
- II. God Provides in Our Need
 - A. David, in desperation, goes to Ahimelech the priest for food
 - B. Ahimelech breaks the rules to show compassion to David
 - C. God leads both David and Ahimelech in this exchange
 - D. Jesus uses this story to illustrate that the law is meant to help us serve God, not crush us
 - E. We should trust God to provide for our needs and be willing to give generously to others in need

- III. God's Protection is Our Security
 - A. David leaves home without weapons, trusting in God's protection
 - B. Ahimelech gives David the sword of Goliath, reminding him that God fights his battles
 - C. David writes in the Psalms about God being his rock, fortress, and deliverer
 - D. Our security should be found in God alone, not in our own strength or resources
- IV. God's Faithfulness Produces Humility
 - A. David has the opportunity to kill Saul in the cave but chooses to spare his life
 - B. David recognizes that God will establish his kingdom in His timing
 - C. David's humility allows him to trust God's plan over his own or his men's plans
 - D. When we experience God's faithfulness, it should lead us to greater humility and submission to His will
- V. Conclusion
 - A. Like David, we should trust in God's provision, protection, and plan, even when it seems counterintuitive
 - B. We should allow God's faithfulness to produce humility in our lives
 - C. Our lives should reveal the character of God, submitting to His will
 - D. We gather to sing praises to God because His plan is always good, even in times of hardship

Notes

When I find myself in times of desperation and need, I believe that God will provide for me, even in unexpected ways. Just as David sought help from Ahimelech the priest, I can trust that God will lead me to the right people and resources to meet my needs. It's important to remember that God's law is meant to serve and guide us, not to crush us under its weight. Jesus himself used David's story to illustrate this point.

As I navigate life's challenges, I must keep my heart set on following God, just as David did. This means trusting in God's provision and being willing to give generously to others who are in need, even if it means breaking some rules or going against societal norms. God looks at the heart, not outward appearances, and He will honor a heart that is committed to Him. By living with this perspective, I can find peace and assurance, knowing that God will always provide for me in my time of need. In my life, I have come to understand that my true security lies in God's protection, not in my own strength or resources. Like David, who trusted in God's protection even when he left home without weapons, I can have confidence that God will fight my battles and deliver me from harm.

The story of Ahimelech giving David the sword of Goliath serves as a powerful reminder that it is God who ultimately defeats our enemies, not our own might.

As I reflect on David's words in the Psalms, I am encouraged to make God my rock, fortress, and deliverer. When faced with difficult circumstances, I must choose to put my trust in God's faithfulness and submit to His will, even when it means setting aside my own plans or desires. This is the essence of humility—recognizing that God's plan is always better than my own.

David's encounter with Saul in the cave is a perfect example of this humble trust in action. Despite having the opportunity to take matters into his own hands and kill Saul, David chose to spare his life, knowing that God would establish his kingdom in His perfect timing. This act of humility and obedience demonstrates the kind of heart I want to cultivate in my own life.

As I experience God's faithfulness in my own journey, I am learning to respond with greater humility and submission to His will. By placing my security in God and trusting in His protection and guidance, I can face life's challenges with peace, knowing that He is in control and will never leave me nor forsake me.

As I reflect on the life of David and the lessons he learned, I am challenged to trust in God's provision, protection, and plan for my life, even when it seems counterintuitive or goes against my natural inclinations. Just as David experienced God's faithfulness in his moments of need and desperation, I too can trust that God will come through for me, even in the midst of hardship and uncertainty.

However, trusting God is not always easy, and it requires a posture of humility and submission to His will. As I encounter God's faithfulness in my own life, I am learning to lay aside my pride and self-sufficiency, recognizing that God's ways are higher than my own. This humility allows me to surrender my plans and desires to Him, knowing that His plan for my life is always good and perfect.

Ultimately, my goal is to live a life that reveals the character of God to those around me. By trusting in His provision, resting in His protection, and humbly submitting to His will, I can demonstrate the love, grace, and faithfulness of God to a watching world. And when I gather with other believers to sing praises to God, I am reminded that His plan is always good, even in times of hardship and suffering. As I navigate the ups and downs of life, I want to hold fast to these truths, allowing them to shape my perspective and guide my steps. By keeping my eyes fixed on God and trusting in His unfailing love and faithfulness, I can face each day with confidence, knowing that He is with me and will never let me go.