

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

March 5

MONDAY

Fleeing from Saul's wrath (and his spear), David high-tailed it to Nob, where the Tabernacle was set up, and where there were priests. One of them, Ahimelech, came out to meet David who lied and told him that he was on a secret mission for the king. Then he asked for food. Ahimelech told him that there was only the holy bread used in the Tabernacle, but in order to eat that, the young men would have to be sexually pure. David assured the priest that they were. So he gave David the bread.

READ: I Samuel 21:1-6

Ahimelech accepted David's explanation despite his own uneasiness. And David's explanation was a fabricated lie. What led David to lie? It seems as if he was worried about his own safety: "What will happen if I do this or say that?" And because the result of telling the truth seemed so unsatisfactory at that moment, he lied. He was, in a sense, playing God. You and I cannot know what will or will not happen. We can only obey God and trust the One who holds the future at this moment – trust the One who does all things well. *Trust Him whatever betide.*

TUESDAY

A man who was loyal to Saul, Doeg the Edomite, was also in Nob, observing what was going on. David got his bread and inquired about weapons. The priest told him that the only weapon in the whole place was the sword of Goliath. With his bread and the new energy it brought him, and with his sword and the new confidence it gave him, David headed to the city of Gath where the Philistine king, Achish, sat on the throne.

READ: I Samuel 21:7-10

There's a great lesson here. God had graciously given the sword of Goliath to David by allowing him to defeat the giant in battle. David had willingly given the sword back to the Lord, and thus it came to be in the Tabernacle. Now, in a moment of distress, that which he had given back to the Lord becomes a great strength and comfort to him. Whatever you and I give to the Lord and devote to His service will count. What we give to the Lord will not be lost. God keeps the books. He doesn't miss a thing.

WEDNESDAY

Word spread rapidly among the Philistines that David was coming. (this was the same David who had killed the Philistine national hero, Goliath) King Achish demanded that David be brought before him. But David played the fool. That is, he pretended to be crazy - even had saliva running down his face - and Achish was deceived and thought David mad. Achish, of course, could not kill a feeble-minded man without "inheriting" his feeble-mindedness, (or so it was believed in those days) and he sent David away.

READ: I Samuel 21:11-15

Thinking back on this moment later on, David wrote *none of those who trust in God shall be without hope*. You and I may not face the wrath of an enemy king, but there will be times when we face trials, difficulties, and persecution. When that happens, my friend, you are not forsaken, forgotten, nor abandoned. God will not desert you. Not today - not ever!

THURSDAY

After getting safely away from Achish and the Philistines, David went to an area around the cave of Adullam to hide. Others joined him there. At first, it was only his family, but later, mighty men of battle gathered, as well. About 400 altogether. 400 misfits and malcontents. At that time, David put his parents into the safeguarding of the King of Moab, and they remained there all the time David was in hiding.

READ: I Samuel 22:1-4

Proverbs 17:17 says that *a brother is born for adversity* and that's true enough, on the whole. But in this case, David's brothers are the first ones to come to his aid. The first! Passed over when He was picking a king, God had something better in store for David's brothers: they were to be the first ones to run to his side and stand by him during his darkest hour. Churchill would have said that it was their finest hour. Just think, your finest hour may occur with something as simple as coming along side of someone who needs help or comfort!

FRIDAY

At Gad's command, David moved to Judah. Saul learned about his move. One time, upset because of repeated failures to capture David, Saul addressed his servants sarcastically saying, "Are all of you Benjamites? Has David made some sort of deal with you? Has he promised you rewards or positions? If not, then why has not even one of you come forward to report all the evil my own son has been up to with him?"

READ: I Samuel 22:5-8

Saul seems determined to prove two things: (1) that David wanted him dead, and (2) that Jonathan was in league with him. He demands that his servants support him in uncovering this evil within his own palace. They don't, and he condemns them for not doing so. The spirit of jealousy dominated Saul's thinking and actions. Let us recognize that in our old natures, we, too, are prone to jealousy. Let us remember that because of our new natures which God has implanted within us, we are able to resist jealousy's pull. Today, we can live for others instead of live in envy of them.

SATURDAY

At King Saul's prompting, Doeg stepped forward and told what he had overheard in Nob when David had met with Ahimelech. Saul immediately sent for the priest, Ahimelech, and confronted him. "Why have you joined with David in conspiring against me?" He asked. Ahimelech was stunned by the accusation! He answered, "Who is more faithful to the King than David? Why, he's your son-in-law!"

READ: I Samuel 22:9-14

Be impressed with the priest. The automatic response of most people would have been to point at someone else and whine: "He made me do it. It's his fault." But not Ahimelech. He spoke of the faithfulness and loyalty of David, and, in essence, challenged the King's evaluation. He spoke in a manner designed to open the eyes of the king to his own folly. Why are we so quick to point and blame? Let us learn, instead, to look at such occasions as opportunities for some eye-opening words. # 20