

11 – RUNNING FROM SAUL (1 SAMUEL 21:1-23:29)

I. David at Nob and Gath (1 Samuel 21:1-15)

A. In Nob (21:1-9)

- David tells the High Priest at Nob that he is on a secret mission for Saul.
- He asks for weapons and food for the journey.
- Ahimelech tells David that they only have the Show Bread, not common bread.
- He allows David to take the bread if the men with David are sexually pure.
- Doeg the Edomite, a servant of Saul, was in Nob and observed the interaction with David.
- Ahimelech told David that Goliath's sword was there and David took it.

B. In Gath (21:10-15)

- David fled from Nob and went to the Philistine king of Gath, Achish.
- The servants of the king pointed out that this is the David who the Israelites sing about.
- Haring this, David became afraid and began to act as if he was mentally ill.
- Achish rejected David, saying he had enough mentally ill people in his kingdom.

II. Saul's Madness (1 Samuel 22:1-23)

A. Men Gather to David (22:1-5)

- David fled to the Cave of Adullham, where his brothers and extended family joined him.
- 400 men, who were distressed and discontented, gathered to David and he became their leader.
- David took his parents and sheltered them with the King of Moab.
- The prophet Gad told David to leave their stronghold and go to Judah.

B. Saul Kills the Priests of the Lord (22:6-19)

- Saul vocally questions his men if David will bless and honor them.
- Saul laments that no one informed him that his son and David made a covenant together.
- Doeg the Edomite informs Saul that the High Priest helped David.

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- Saul sent for the Priests at Nob and confronted them about helping David.
- Ahimelech stated that he did nothing out of the ordinary and that they knew nothing.
- Saul orders his men to kill the Priests, but they would not lift their hands against the Priests.
- Saul ordered Doeg to kill them and he slaughtered the Priests and the everyone in Nob.

C. David Assumes Responsibility (22:20-23)

- Abiathar, son of Ahimelech, fled the slaughter of the Priests and joined with David.
- After telling David what Saul did to the priests, David assumed responsibility.
- He told Abiathar to stay with him since those who were seeking him also seek David.

III. David in the Wilderness (1 Samuel 23:1-29)

A. David at Keilah (23:1-13)

- David hears that the Philistines are attacking Keilah and he asks the Lord if he should help.
- David's men were afraid, but David inquired again and the Lord confirmed his victory.
- David defeated the Philistines and saved Keilah, where Abiathar met him with an ephod.
- Saul hearing that David was at Keilah, went to besiege the city.
- David inquired of the Lord if the men of Keilah would betray him and Lord said yes.
- David left Keilah with 600 men and fled in all directions.

B. David Meets Jonathan (23:14-18)

- David stayed in the Wilderness of Ziph as Saul sought him every day,
- But the Lord did not allow David to fall into Saul's hand.
- Jonathan met David to strengthen him and to recommit themselves to their covenant.
- Jonathan proclaimed that Saul will not find him and that David will be King of Israel.

C. The Wilderness of Maon (23:19-29)

- The Ziphites informed Saul that David was hiding among them.
- Saul thanked them for their kindness and told them to spy out his location.

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- When they went to look for David, he had fled to the Wilderness of Maon.
- Saul pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon, but left to fight the Philistines.
- David then left there and went to the strongholds of En Gedi.