**Lesson 25**

**1 Samuel 23:1-6 (NASB)**

1  Then they told David, saying, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are plundering the threshing floors." *(stealing the grain)*  
2  So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and deliver Keilah."   
3  But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the ranks of the Philistines?" *(why were they afarid)*  
4  Then David inquired of the LORD once more. And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand."   
5  So David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines; and he led away their livestock and struck them with a great slaughter. Thus David delivered the inhabitants of Keilah.   
6  Now it came about, when Abiathar *(A b ith ar)* the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, *that* he came down *with* an ephod in his hand.

Why is this important?

(3) David in the wilderness ([chaps. 23-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23-24)).

[23:1-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A1-18). While in flight from Saul, **David** did more than remain in hiding. He also fought on behalf of his beleaguered people against the ever-menacing **Philistines.** First, having consulted **the Lord** by means of the ephod's sacred lots ([v. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A2); cf. [v. 6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A6)), he delivered the town **of Keilah,** near the Philistine border, 15 miles southwest of Bethlehem ([vv. 1-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A1-5)). But the people "repaid" his kindness by betraying him to **Saul** ([vv. 7-12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A7-12)). So he withdrew with **600** men, who remained faithful to him ([v. 13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A13); cf. [27:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+27%3A2); [30:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+30%3A9); [2 Sam. 15:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Sa+15%3A18)), **to the Desert of Ziph** (1 Sam. [23:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A14)), a desolate hilly and wooded area between Hebron and the Dead Sea. He was joined there (**at Horesh** in **the desert**) briefly by **Jonathan,** who again confirmed the legitimacy of David's kingship ([vv. 16-18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A16-18)).

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

**Open it**

1. What are some examples of appropriate and inappropriate "rescuing"?   
 **saving a life, saving face**

2. What method or methods do you use to make decisions in your life?   
 **Prayer and much thought**  
  
**Explore it**

3. What news did David get about Keilah? ([23:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A1))   
 **The Philistines were fighting them and stealing their grain**

4. What was David’s first response to the news that an Israelite town was being attacked by an enemy? ([23:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A2))   
 **Ask the Lord for guidance**

5. Why were David’s men hesitant to follow him into battle? ([23:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A3))   
 **They were afraid of Saul in Judah and much more of the Philistines**

6. How did God reassure David when he came the second time for guidance? ([23:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A4))   
 **He would deliver the Philistines into his hand**

7. What were the results of David’s attack on the Philistines? ([23:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A5))   
 **They took their livestock and killed the Philistines with great slaughter**

8. By what method was David seeking God’s guidance? ([23:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+23%3A6))   
 **by means of the ephod's sacred lots**

**Get it**

9. How did David show his leadership qualities by considering an attack when he heard the news about Keilah?   
 **That we was being lead by God**

10. What was good about the way David made his decisions?   
 **The people could see he was asking the Lord for guidance and not just thinking on his own**

11. Why is it important to seek God’s guidance before embarking even on an errand of mercy?   
 **It must be done with God’s favor and not with man’s will**  
  
**Apply it**

12. What instinct to rescue should you check with the Lord this week before you act?   
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13. What verse of Scripture could you memorize to remind yourself that you succeed by God’s strength rather than your own?   
 **Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**