**Lesson 24**

**1 Samuel 21:10-15 (NASB)**   
10  Then David arose and fled that day from Saul, and went to Achish king of Gath.   
11  But the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of this one as they danced, saying, 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands'?"   
12  David took these words to heart and greatly feared Achish king of Gath.   
13  So he disguised his sanity before them, and acted insanely in their hands, and scribbled on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva run down into his beard.   
14  Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man behaving as a madman. Why do you bring him to me?   
15  "Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this one to act the madman in my presence? Shall this one come into my house?"

The insane were considered a untouchable so as not to provoke Gid

[21:7-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A7-15). While **David** was at Nob, he was spotted by a spy of Saul, **Doeg the Edomite,** who informed Saul of David's whereabouts ([v. 7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A7); [22:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A9)). Taking Goliath's **sword** which had been kept by the priests at Nob ([21:8-9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A8-9)), **David** immediately **fled** for his life and, throwing all caution to the winds, fled to **Gath,** hometown of the dead Philistine hero Goliath ([v. 10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A10)). Recognized by **Achish,** the lord **of Gath,** David pretended to be insane and so escaped Philistine reprisal ([vv. 11-13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A11-13)). This is in line with the practice of the ancient world to regard the **insane** as being in some sense an evil portent and so exempt from harm lest the gods be provoked.

**1 Samuel 22:1-23 (NASB)**   
1  So David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam; and when his brothers and all his father's household heard *of it,* they went down there to him.   
2  Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about four hundred men with him*. (Why were the downtrodden coming to David?)*  
3  And David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother come *and stay* with you until I know what God will do for me."   
4  Then he left them with the king of Moab; and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.   
5  The prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

[Chapter 22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22). **David** next moved to **Adullam,** about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem and 10 miles northeast of **Gath** ([v. 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A1)). There he took residence in **the cave** along with **400** other **men** who, for various reasons, were refugees ([v. 2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A2)). Meantime, sensing a threat to his own family, **David** took them to **Moab** ([vv. 3-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A3-4)), perhaps to live among the kinfolk of his own great-grandmother Ruth. **David** then **went to the forest of Hereth,** east of Adullam, in **Judah** ([v. 5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A5)), no doubt to be among his own people over whom God had anointed him to reign.

6  Then Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered. Now Saul was sitting in Gibeah, under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing around him.   
7  Saul said to his servants who stood around him, "Hear now, O Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse also give to all of you fields and vineyards? Will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds? *(Trying to buy loyalty?)*

8  "For all of you have conspired against me so that there is no one who discloses to me when my son makes *a covenant* with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you who is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me to lie in ambush, as *it is* this day." *(who is lying in ambush for who here?)*   
9  Then Doeg the Edomite, who was standing by the servants of Saul, said, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub.   
10  "He inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."   
11  Then the king sent someone to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's household, the priests who were in Nob; and all of them came to the king.   
12  Saul said, "Listen now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord."   
13  Saul then said to him, "Why have you and the son of Jesse conspired against me, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he would rise up against me by lying in ambush as *it is* this day?"   
14  Then Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, even the king's son-in-law, who is captain over your guard, and is honored in your house?   
15  "Did I *just* begin to inquire of God for him today? Far be it from me! Do not let the king impute anything to his servant *or* to any of the household of my father, for your servant knows nothing at all of this whole affair."   
16  But the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's household!"   
17  And the king said to the guards who were attending him, "Turn around and put the priests of the LORD to death, because their hand also is with David and because they knew that he was fleeing and did not reveal it to me." But the servants of the king were not willing to put forth their hands to attack the priests of the LORD.   
18  Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn around and attack the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned around and attacked the priests, and he killed that day eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. *(the only one willing?)*  
19  And he struck Nob the city of the priests with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and infants; also oxen, donkeys, and sheep *he struck* with the edge of the sword.

As soon as **Saul** found out about David's return to Judah, he began to blast his followers for their failure to communicate all they knew about David's activities, particularly his close relationship with Jonathan ([vv. 6-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A6-8)). To soothe Saul **Doeg,** who had seen David at Nob, told the king how the priest **at Nob** had assisted David in his need. In his paranoia **Saul** concluded that **Ahimelech** and the other **priests** were conspirators **against** him, and after calling for them and listening to their self-defense he ordered them slain ([vv. 11-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A11-16)). Only **Doeg** was willing to undertake the gruesome assignment. He **killed** the **85** priests of **Nob** together with their families and livestock ([vv. 17-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A17-19)).

20  But one son of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David.   
21  Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the LORD.   
22  Then David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have brought about *the death* of every person in your father's household.   
23  "Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life, for you are safe with me."

**David** then was joined by **Abiathar** ([vv. 20-23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A20-23)), **son of** the priest **Ahimelech,** who **fled to** David after Saul exterminated the whole priestly community. This marked the beginning of David's priestly staff which would later lead the tabernacle worship in Jerusalem.

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

**Open it**

1. How does it feel to be caught between two former friends who have become enemies?   
 **Physically ill, help one and the other is angry with you, do nothing and both are**

2. In what situations might someone’s reputation for bravery actually put him or her in jeopardy?   
 **The situation may call for retreat and his reps make him do the opposite**   
  
**Explore it**

3. Where did David seek safety as he fled from King Saul? ([21:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A10))   
 **From Achish king of Gath**

4. Why was David afraid when he realized that his reputation had preceded him? ([21:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A12))   
 **They remembered his killing of enemy’s and he was afraid they would kill him**

5. How did David employ his cleverness to avoid harm at the hands of Achish, king of Gath? ([21:13-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+21%3A13-15))   
 **He pretended to be insane as they are protected from harm least whoever harms them offends God**  
6. What made David decide to leave Adullam and go to the forest of Hereth? ([22:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A5))   
 **The Prophet Gad told him to leave and go to Judah**

7. With what reasoning did Saul appeal to his officials to support him rather than David? ([22:7-8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A7-8))   
 **Who can give you things like I can, trying to buy loyalty**

8. What piece of information did Saul especially resent that his officials had withheld? ([22:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A8))   
 **That his son had made a covenant with David and had not told him about it**

9. Which of Saul’s officials took advantage of the opportunity to ingratiate himself by exposing someone who had aided David? ([22:9-10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A9-10))   
 **Doeg the Edomite**

10. What accusation did Saul make against the priests at Nob? ([22:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A13))   
 **That the Priests and David were conspiring to kill Saul**

11. Why, according to Ahimelech, did he not suspect that David was at odds with Saul? ([22:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A15))   
 **David was the kings son in law, faithful, captain of the guard, and honored in Saul’s house**

12. Who was the only one willing to strike down the priests of the Lord? ([22:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A18-19))   
 **Doeg the Edomite**

13. How did David respond to the news that Saul had killed the priests? ([22:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+22%3A22))   
 **That he was the cause of it having been see by Doeg**  
  
**Get it**

14. Why did David find himself in a dangerous situation in the very place he had sought refuge from Saul?   
 **He was revealed by Doeg**

15. Do you think loyalty is more or less important than the discernment of right and wrong? Why?   
 **Loyalty has its place but right and wrong should prevail**  
  
**Apply it**

16. What loyalty in your life should be examined to be sure that obedience to God’s Word takes precedence?   
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17. How could you offer protection this week to someone who has been subjected to persecution or teasing?   
 **First you must be aware of it and then take a stand for the person who is being treated badly, sometimes you also become the target as well**