

1 Samuel 21:10–14

10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath.

11 And the servants of Achish said to him, “Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands’?”

12 Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath.

13 So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.

14 Then Achish said to his servants, “Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me?”

God Protects David *1 Samuel 21*

INTRO:

In a sermon I heard once the preacher closed his sermon by praying to God and saying, “Lord, help us to trust you like David did when we face situations like David faced.” Honestly, I do not know what situations this man was thinking about when he prayed this prayer, but I really doubt we will ever face situations like David faced. All of David’s trials we run into in 1 Samuel were magnitudes of difficulty more than anything we will ever face.

Still, the God who could slay giants, divinely protect from the lunatic King Saul and deliver Him from the Philistine king of Gath, is the one who can and will take care of us. The LORD took care of David by providing for him through the priests at Nob and when he fled to Gath.

I. David at Nob (v. 1-9)

II. David in Gath (v. 10-15)

I. David at Nob (v. 1-9)

A. David begins his career as a fugitive by seeking provisions and arms from the priests at Nob. It appears that the Tabernacle was pitched at Nob, but the Ark of the Covenant was not there. Later King David would bring the Ark back to the Tabernacle.

B. By way of a lie, David convinces Ahimelech to give him five loaves from the showbread which was replaced by fresh loaves that day. He also induced the priest to give him Goliath's sword.

C. There are two applications here.

1. First, while our God is not obligated to bless our sin or rescue us from our stupidity, still God overrule our sin or foolish actions to accomplish His eternal will. Our LORD did that here.

2. Second, God here is providing David with much needed food and a weapon. God does not just meet the needs of His special servant David, He has promised to provide for each of us who are His children.

II. David in Gath (v. 10-15)

A. Leaving Nob, David flees to the one place he is sure that Saul will not follow. He goes into the area of the enemy. Surely, Saul cannot come after him there. **(vs.10-11)**

“Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said to him, ‘Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: ‘Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?’”

We are not told David's strategy in fleeing to Gath. Did David go there seeking to defect? Did he hope to not be recognized? We do not know. Whatever his reason for going, the reception that met him was unexpected.

B. The Philistine intelligence network was better informed than David thought. The immediately recognized him (remember there were no pictures back then). The also knew the lyrics of the triumph song that met he and Saul as they returned from the battle with the Philistines. This discussion produced fear in the heart of the one who had no fear before Goliath. **(vs.12-13)**

“Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard.”

C. We can best see this from David's viewpoint by considering the Psalms he wrote when delivered from this peril. In **Psalm 56** wrote about his thinking while the trial was taking place. (**Psalm 56:1-4**)

“Be gracious to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?”

David learned some very important lessons. The major lesson being to commit to trust in God when he did not know what God was doing in his life. David found himself in a perilous situation and God delivered him.

D. **Psalm 34** was his anthem of praise to God for His deliverance. (**Psalm 34:1-4**)

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the LORD; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together. I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.”

David did not congratulate himself for his quick thinking. Instead, David recognized God was his deliverer and breaks out in enthusiastic praise because God delivered him.

We learn from David's first day of being a fugitive for something he did not do, that even in extreme situations, God will provide and He will protect His own.

We tend to think, well this is true of David, but it will not be true for me. Before we fall into this kind of thinking, it is important to think in a different way. If God will deliver David from situations we will probably never see, which also are incredibly dangerous, so much more will He deliver us to face much smaller problems for His glory. We must learn to do what David resolved to do. When I am afraid, I will trust in God.