

## David at Gath - 1 Samuel 21:10-22:23

**Topics:** Accusation, Achievements, Advice, Alone, Anger, Assumptions, Authority, Children, Conscience, Danger, Death, Deceit, Disobedience, Enemies, Escape, Family, Guidance, Hatred, Injustice, Instructions, Intimidation, Knowledge, Murder, Opposition, Parents, Partnerships, Protection, Punishment, Revenge, Self-Centeredness

### Open It

- \* 1. How does it feel to be caught between two former friends who have become enemies?
- 2. In what situations might someone's reputation for bravery actually put him or her in jeopardy?

### Explore It

- 3. Where did David seek safety as he fled from King Saul? (21:10)
- 4. What popular saying about David was known among the people of Gath? (21:11)
- 5. Why was David afraid when he realized that his reputation had preceded him? (21:12)
- 6. How did David employ his cleverness to avoid harm at the hands of Achish, king of Gath? (21:13-15)
- 7. What sorts of people gathered around David at the cave of Adullam? (22:2)
- 8. What provision did David make for his parents' safety while he was a fugitive? (22:3-4)
- 9. What made David decide to leave Adullam and go to the forest of Hereth? (22:5)
- 10. With what reasoning did Saul appeal to his officials to support him rather than David? (22:7-8)
- 11. What piece of information did Saul especially resent that his officials had withheld? (22:8)
- 12. Which of Saul's officials took advantage of the opportunity to ingratiate himself by exposing someone who had aided David? (22:9-10)
- 13. What did Saul do when he learned that David had visited the priests at Nob? (22:11)
- \* 14. What accusation did Saul make against the priests at Nob? (22:13)
- \* 15. On what grounds did Ahimelech maintain that he was innocent of aiding rebellion against Saul? (22:14)
- \* 16. Why, according to Ahimelech, did he not suspect that David was at odds with Saul? (22:15)
- 17. Despite the priest's protests, what verdict did Saul arrive at and what sentence did he pronounce? (22:17)
- 18. Who was the only one willing to strike down the priests of the Lord? (22:18-19)
- 19. Where did Abiathar, the only son to escape, seek refuge? (22:20)
- 20. How did David respond to the news that Saul had killed the priests? (22:22)
- 21. What dubious distinction did David and Abiathar have in common? (22:23)

### Get It

- \* 22. Why did David find himself in a dangerous situation in the very place he had sought refuge from Saul?
- 23. Why was David's ruse (pretending to be insane) effective in getting Achish to dismiss him as a threat?
- 24. What sorts of people tend to gather around someone who has become a very visible enemy of the state?
- 25. How did David's concern for his parents' safety reflect obedience for the Word of God?
- 26. Why isn't the ability to hand out favors (such as prime land and powerful government positions) a secure way for a ruler to gain the loyalty of his or her subjects?
- 27. What are some of the motives of a "snitch" or "tattletale"?
- \* 28. Do you think loyalty is more or less important than the discernment of right and wrong? Why?
- 29. What qualities might cause one person to commit a vicious act from which others have shied away?

## **Apply It**

- \* 30. What loyalty in your life should be examined to be sure that obedience to God's Word takes precedence?
- 31. How could you offer protection this week to someone who has been subjected to persecution or teasing?