

“David’s Deceptive Deliverances”
I Samuel 21

David flees to Ahimelech—fools him and gains provisions (21:1-9)

*Note the sandwich structure: two lengthy descriptions of events involving Nob (21:1-9 / 22:11-23), w/David’s brief trips in between.

*Do you think Ahimelech buys this flimsy fib? His *trembling* recalls 16:1-3. A secret mission w/provisions or weapons!? David needs food, a weapon and a word from God. This trip will get him all three in the end, see 22:22,23, 23:6. Ps. 34 may refer to all this.

*Doeg was a chief shepherd loyal to Saul (from war in 14:47?)
David later laments his unfortunate presence there, 22:22.

David flees to Achish—fools him and loses his dignity (21:10-15)

*Why in the world does David go to Gath? Consider I Kgs. 11:14-19, 31,40. Mtt. 2:13,14. That top 40 song strikes again! (18:7)

*ROCK BOTTOM--this has to be a low point in David’s young life. He is reduced to acting like a slobbering nutcase to save his skin. Though he loses his dignity, we know in Samuel when the godly are humiliated it’s just a matter of time before they are exalted. Soon David will be playing Achish for the big fool.

*Going to Gath proves to be a flop, but David will later try Gath again. Having many mercenary troops helps next time in 27:1-4.

WHAT DOES DAVID’S BEHAVIOR SUGGEST FOR US?

How does the narrator view these events?

How does Jesus view this event? See Mtt. 12:1-7, Mk. 2: 23-28.

Is it OK to be dishonest / deceptive to get what we want or to get ourselves out of trouble? Any rule of thumb here?

How does this event compare to other such scenarios? Could we one day find ourselves in a I Samuel 21 situation?