



The Bread of the Presence
23rd in the “God’s King” Series
1 Samuel 21
December 4, 2022
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, God shows us how David is a type of Christ and exhorts us to live out our identity in Christ.

The Text: 1 Samuel 21

¹ Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” ² And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. ³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” ⁴ And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” ⁵ And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” ⁶ So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away. ⁷ Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the Lord. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul’s herdsmen. ⁸ Then David said to Ahimelech, “Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s business required haste.” ⁹ And the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here.” And David said, “There is none like that; give it to me.” ¹⁰ And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. ¹¹ And the servants of Achish said to him, “Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, ‘Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands’?” ¹² And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. ¹³ So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?”

1) David foreshadows Jesus as the Priest and King of God (vv. 1-9).

- *Luke 6:1-6:* ¹ On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. ² But some of the Pharisees said, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” ³ And Jesus answered them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?” ⁵ And he said to them, “The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

2) Unlike Christ, David responds out of fear and fails to live out his identity as the Priestly-King (vv. 10-15).

- *Romans 6:2-4* *1 Corinthians 3:1-4* *Galatians 5:1, 7-9, 16-17*

Response

Lord, help us to see the promised provision of Christ even in the Old Covenant and to live in the New Covenant as grateful and obedient recipients of your goodness and grace.

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: Have you seen the traits of a child manifest themselves when he or she became an adult?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) Why do you think Ahimelech, the priest, was “trembling” when David approached and asked for assistance (v. 1)?
- 4) There is much confusion regarding David’s intentions in these verses. Do you think David in v. 2 was lying to Ahimelech to conceal his true activity or being cryptic to protect Ahimelech from Doeg the Edomite, one of Saul’s henchmen, who was present “that day” (v. 7), and why?
- 5) How does giving the priestly bread and kingly sword to David imply that he is the priestly king, and how does David serve as a “type” of or template for Christ in light of the larger biblical story?
- 6) Read Luke 24:27 (or all of vv. 13-27, if you have time!). How does this verse teach us that the entire Old Testament is about Christ and directs us to Christ, and how should that affect how we read the Old Testament?
- 7) Why was David so afraid of Achish, the king of Gath, and why would he pretend to be insane in such a dramatic way?
- 8) How does David fail to act out his true identity as the priest-king of God? Or better, how should David have acted when he entered into Gath?
- 9) How are we, God’s people, often tempted to act in the world around us out of fear rather than live out our true identity as God’s holy people?
- 10) How should a Christian live differently in the world than those who are not Christians?

Further study this week: Passages that exhort Christians to live out their identity in Christ: Romans 6:2-4 (Mon); 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (Tues); Galatians 5:1-17 (Wed); Galatians 2:17-20 (Thurs); Colossians 3:1-14 (Fri).