

## 1 SAMUEL 21; April 5; David Feigned Himself Mad

### ANALYSIS:

1. When David fled from Saul, he came to Ahimeleck the priest at Nob; and when he asked for bread, what was he given? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who of Saul's servants happened to see Ahimeleck help David?  
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3. What weapon did the priest give David? \_\_\_\_\_

4. When David next fled to Achish, king of Gath, what did his servants say about David, and what did David think?  
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5. How did David escape from Achish that day?  
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### THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

David employs subtlety twice in this chapter to save his life. He tells the priest he is on a secret urgent errand for Saul and he needs food and a weapon. The priest gives him shewbread which is not lawful to eat but by the priests. Jesus explained David did this "when he had need" (Mk 2:25), and was not condemned because the LORD "will have mercy and not sacrifice" (Mt 12:7). David's fleeing to the Philistine king of Gath shows how very desperate he was. Surely the angel of the LORD (Ps 34:7) was present to preserve David's life as the king's servants identified David as the slayer of many Philistines. What an act David played in front of king Achish: pretending madness, scrabbling about, saliva running out of his mouth and down upon his beard. And the LORD delivered him! Psalm 34 was written about this event.

You will likely never be in as dangerous a situation as David was in front of Achish, but David boasted of the LORD, "This poor man cried, and LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles" (Ps 34:6)! Don't forget that God has answered prayer as it was being thought or spoken! Let us note whenever the LORD answers our prayer and be quick to praise HIM!

### HELP:

1. Shewbread (v 6).

2. Doeg the Edomite (v 7).

3. Goliath's sword (v 9).

4. Is not this David the king of the land of whom they sang, Saul hath slain his thousands and David his ten thousands. David was sore afraid (v 11).

5. David pretended he was mad (insane), scrabbled (to scrape, make hasty disordered markings; scribble; grope about frenetically with the hands) on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard (v 13). The king thought David was mad/insane and let him go (vs 14-15; 22:1).