

BTC-JULY 2, 1989

I SAMUEL 21:

MATTHEW 12:3-4

CHOOSING HONESTY

AS SOON AS JONATHAN AND DAVID SAID GOODBYE TO EACH OTHER, DAVID WENT AWAY TO HIDE FROM KING SAUL.

DAVID WENT TO A SMALL TOWN CALLED NOB. DAVID WENT TO AHIMELECH THE PRIEST. AHIMELECH WONDERED WHY DAVID CAME THERE ALL ALONE.

AHIMELECH, THE PRIEST, ASKED DAVID, "WHY ARE YOU ALONE? WHY DIDN'T ANYONE COME WITH YOU?"

DAVID DIDN'T TELL AHIMELECH THE REAL REASON WHY HE HAD COME THERE. DAVID MADE UP A STORY AND DID NOT TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH ABOUT WHY HE CAME THERE.

DAVID TOLD AHIMELECH, "THE KING HAS SENT ME ON VERY SPECIAL BUSINESS, AND HE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS SECRET BUSINESS I'M DOING. SO I TOLD MY SERVANTS TO WAIT SOMEWHERE ELSE."

THEN DAVID ASKED AHIMELECH, "WHAT IS THAT YOU HAVE THERE? GIVE ME FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD OR HOWEVER MANY YOU HAVE THERE."

THERE WAS ALWAYS SHEWBREAD IN

THE TABERNACLE. THE SHEWBREAD WAS BAKED IN TWELVE LOAVES. EVERY WEEK FRESH NEW LOAVES WERE BAKED (I CHRONICLES 9:32).

THE SHEWBREAD WAS PUT IN TWO ROWS ON THE "PURE TABLE BEFORE THE LORD". THE SHEWBREAD WAS TO BE PUT OUT ON THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD EVERY SABBATH. THEN THE PRIESTS COULD HAVE THE OLD SHEWBREAD TO EAT, AS THEIR OWN FOOD. (LEVITICUS 24: 5-9)

DAVID ASKED AHIMELECH TO SHARE SOME OF THE OLD SHEWBREAD WITH HIM. AHIMELECH TOLD DAVID THAT THE ONLY BREAD HE HAD WAS THE HOLY SHEWBREAD WHICH WAS TO BE PUT ON THE TABLE TO BE USED IN THEIR WORSHIP SERVICE. SO AHIMELECH GAVE DAVID THE BREAD BECAUSE HE KNEW DAVID NEEDED SOMETHING TO EAT.

WHILE DAVID WAS THERE TALKING TO AHIMELECH, DOEG, ONE OF SAUL'S SERVANTS WAS THERE AND HEARD EVERY WORD DAVID HAD SAID!

WHILE DOEG WAS LISTENING,

DAVID ASKED AHIMELECH, "DO YOU HAVE A SWORD OR SPEAR HERE THAT I COULD USE? I COULDN'T BRING MINE BECAUSE I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO

DO THIS SECRET BUSINESS I'M DOING FOR THE KING."

AMIMELECH SAID, "GOLIATH'S SWORD IS THE ONLY SWORD HERE. IF YOU WANT TO USE IT YOU MAY TAKE IT AND USE IT."

AND DAVID SAID, "GIVE IT TO ME." THEN DAVID LEFT THE TABERNACLE. HE WAS TRYING TO FIND A PLACE WHERE HE COULD STAY AND BE SAFE.

FIRST HE WENT TO ACHISH, THE KING OF GATH. BUT ACHISH'S SERVANTS RECOGNIZED HIM AND STARTED TALKING ABOUT HIM. DAVID KNEW HE WOULD NOT BE SAFE THERE, SO HE STARTED ACTING CRAZY. HE PRETENDED TO BE TOTALLY CRAZY, AND FINALLY ACHISH TOLD HIS SERVANTS TO GET RID OF DAVID.

SO DAVID LEFT AND ESCAPED TO A CAVE NOT TOO FAR FROM GATH. ABOUT 400 MEN CAME TO THE CAVE TO STAY WITH DAVID, AND HE BECAME THEIR CAPTAIN. DAVID'S FAMILY HAD COME TO THE CAVE TO STAY WITH DAVID, TOO BUT DAVID KNEW IT WAS VERY DANGEROUS FOR HIS FAMILY THERE, SO HE ASKED THE KING OF MOAB TO LET THEM LIVE IN MOAB TILL DAVID WAS OUT OF DANGER.

THEN RIGHT AFTER DAVID'S FAMILY

WAS TAKEN TO MOAB, A PROPHET NAMED GAD TOLD DAVID TO LEAVE THE CAVE RIGHT AWAY AND GO TO A SAFER PLACE IN THE LAND OF JUDAH. DAVID OBEYED THE PROPHET.

SOON KING SAUL HEARD THAT SOME PEOPLE HAD SEEN DAVID AND THE GROUP OF MEN WITH HIM.

KING SAUL WAS ANGRY THAT JONATHAN HAD PROTECTED DAVID.

THEN DOEG TOLD WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT DAVID. DOEG SAID, "I SAW DAVID AT NOB, TALKING TO AHIMELECH. AND I SAW AHIMELECH GIVING HIM FOOD AND GOLIATH'S SWORD. AND AHIMELECH ASKED OF GOD FOR HIM."

THEN KING SAUL CALLED FOR AHIMELECH AND ALL THE OTHER PRIESTS IN NOB TO COME SEE HIM.

KING SAUL ASKED AHIMELECH WHY HE HAD HELPED DAVID REBEL AGAINST HIM AND BE HIS ENEMY.

AHIMELECH TOLD SAUL THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ALL THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN DAVID & SAUL.

THEN KING SAUL SAID, "YOU WILL DIE AHIMELECH, AND ALL THE OTHER PRIESTS WILL DIE, TOO."

AND KING SAUL GAVE THE ORDER TO HIS SERVANTS FOR THEM TO KILL THE PRIESTS. THE SERVANTS WOULD NOT

· OBEY THE COMMAND TO KILL THE
· PRIESTS.

· SO THE KING TOLD DOEG TO KILL
· THE PRIESTS. DOEG KILLED 85 PRIESTS,
· AND HE KILLED THEIR FAMILIES, TOO

· ONE OF THE SONS OF AHIMELECH
· ESCAPED AND RAN TO DAVID. HE TOLD
· DAVID WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

· DAVID TOLD HIM, "I KNEW THAT
· DAY WHEN DOEG LISTENED IN THE
· TABERNACLE THAT HE WOULD TELL
· SAUL. I HAVE CAUSED THE DEATHS OF
· ALL THESE PEOPLE FROM MY FATHER'S
· FAMILY."