

Bible Study on 1 Samuel
1 SAMUEL 21: UNHOLY FLIGHT

1. **1 Samuel 21.1-9. David's fear led him to lie to Abimelech the priest**

2. **1 Samuel 21.10-15. David's fear led him to find safety with God's enemies**

APPLICATION

1. **Proverbs 29:25:** “The fear of man brings a snare [trap], but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.” David’s fear of Saul “led to foolish and sinful behavior, including a lie to the priest and trying to find safety with the enemy” (*Reformation Heritage Bible*).
2. But the LORD was in control, even of David’s foolishness, providing for David and protecting him, because His plan to put David on the throne would not be thwarted. “He knows how to rescue His people from these places and to use them to challenge and mold our faith” (Richard Phillips, *1 Samuel*).
3. David “had been anointed unto the throne, yet Saul was now bitterly persecuting him. Why, then, should the slayer of Goliath now be a fugitive? ... Faith must be tested, and we must learn by painful experience the bitter consequences of not trusting in the Lord with all our hearts, and the evil fruits which are borne whenever we lean unto our own understandings, take matters into our own hands, and seek to extricate ourselves from trouble. Concerning Hezekiah we read that ‘God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart’ (2 Chron. 32:31). None of us knows how weak he is till God withdraws His upholding grace (as He did with Peter) and we are left to ourselves” (Arthur Pink, *Life of David*).
4. “Though ingenious falsehoods may seem to promote present security, yet they insure future disgrace. They did for Abraham, for Isaac, for Jacob, for Peter, for Ananias. Leaning unto his own understanding conducted David to Gath, but he soon learned from the shame of his folly that he had not walked in wisdom. Not only was David deeply humiliated by this pitiful episode, but Jehovah was grievously dishonored thereby. Marvelous indeed was it that he escaped with his life: this can only be attributed to the secret but invincible workings of His power, moving upon the king of the Philistines” (Pink).
5. “God will not allow His people to remain incognito in this world. He has appointed that they should ‘be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without blame in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom’ they are to ‘shine as lights in the world’ (Phil. 2:15), and any efforts of theirs to annul this, He will thwart. Abraham’s deception was discovered. Peter’s attempt to conceal his discipleship failed—his very speech betrayed him. So here: David was quickly recognized. And thus it will be with us. And mercifully is this the case, for God will not have His own to settle down among and enjoy the friendship of His enemies” (Pink).
6. According to Psalm 34, David learned his lesson. “A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before *Abimelech* [‘my father is king’], who drove him away, and departed.” ‘Abimelech’ was a title for Philistine kings, just as ‘Pharaoh’ was for Egyptian kings.