**WEEK 5 | 1 SAMUEL 21-25 | LEGALISM**

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Samuel chapters 21 – 25

In our reading this week David is a fugitive, on the run from King Saul who is trying to kill him. In 1 Samuel 21 what does David ask of the priest?

* For context on the “holy bread” see Exodus 25:30 and Leviticus 10:10, 24:5-9
* So, was this right for David to ask and should the priest have complied?

Read Mark 2:23-28 for what Jesus has to say about this incident. The Pharisees are taking a strict/legalistic view and defining what the disciples were doing as “work” which was forbidden on the Sabbath (Exodus 34:21, however Deuteronomy 23:25 actually allows exactly what they’re doing).

* How does this situation relate to David taking the bread in 1 Sam. 21?
* How is Jesus trying to refute the Pharisees legalism?
* Read Matthew 5–7, the “Sermon on the Mount,” for more on how Jesus views the spirit of the law and the heart behind it versus strict legalism.

In 1 Samuel 22 we see David has escaped King Achish and has holed up in a cave.

* Who are the people that are drawn to David? What does that say about David?

To be a priest of God was a very high honor, yet a terrible thing happens in Chapter 22 to not one but all of the priests. Summarize the events in this chapter.

Let’s look into this situation a little deeper. Who was first commanded by the king to kill the priests? (vs. 17)

* Why didn’t they obey his command, after all, he was their king?
* What do you think you would have done in this situation?
* Can you think of a modern day situation where such a decision would have to be made?

1 Samuel 23 displays how differently David and Saul relate to God:

* Why do you think David continued to trust in God, even as Saul pursued him?
* How did David keep his relationship with God strong? Who encouraged him?
* Saul continues to be self-deceived thinking God is guiding him and delivering David into his hand. Why do you think this is?

In 1 Samuel 24 David’s men encourage him to kill Saul, reminding him of God’s promise to “deliver Saul into his hands.” While David spared Saul’s life, he did act on their advice but then had immediate remorse.

* Why would he have remorse about this?
* Read Romans 12:17-18. What does this mean for us today?

To shed more light on this situation, here are a couple of enlightening facts\*:

* In the days of Saul and David to seize the hem of a garment symbolized loyalty, faith and covenant-making.
* Cutting off the corner of someone’s robe was a symbol of disloyalty and rebellion.
* David’s act was a display of disloyalty to Saul, something he had carefully guarded against.

What are some of the things that David does in 1 Sam. 24:8-11 that show his loyalty to Saul? How does this jive with the above facts about cutting the hem of a king’s garment?

1 Samuel 25 introduces us to Nabal and his wife Abigail. Although they were a married couple they were ***very***different from each other.

* List some characteristics of Nabal
* List some characteristics of Abigail

Based on the characteristics of Nabal that you have just identified, are you surprised by his response to David’s request in vs. 8-10?

* David was not asking for anything contrary to the custom of the day. Consider this: In modern society David’s means of supporting his men might be considered “protection money, a form of illegal extortion.” But such practices were common in ancient times, when standing armies and police forces were not available.\*
* On a lighter note, verse 18 tells us that “Abagail took no time” in collecting the supplies that would be taken to David. Re-read verse 18 and consider if you could have produced this type of bounty “in no time.” Thought: perhaps Nabal’s estate was quite large.

1 Samuel 25 shows us an example of being rewarded for your good deeds and the consequences for bad decisions. What are these two examples?

**Come ready to discuss the following in your group:**

* Does the company we keep really matter?
* Legalism in light of Mark 2:23-28

\*Taken from the Quest Study Bible