

Trust and Respect

1 Samuel 23

TAG Team Lesson

Week of February 7

David flees for his life and Saul devotes his energy and the resources of his realm to pursuing him. More than once David escapes, but with every sunrise he finds that the territory within which he can move is diminished. This is a time of testing and training for David, as God teaches him about Himself and molds him into His image.

Plundering the threshing floors (23:1): The Philistines apparently waited until after the Israelites had harvested the wheat and finished the laborious task of threshing (separating the grain from the stalks on which it had grown). Then they would come and carry off the grain by force. Thus, the Israelites would have nothing to show for all their work.

The ephod (23:6): The high priest's ephod with the Urim and Thummin for asking yes-or-no questions of the Lord. We don't know exactly what these were, but they seem to have been small stones or lots that were cast like dice to gain answers from the Lord. The assumption was that God would sovereignly control how they fell so as to reveal the correct answer (Proverbs 16:33)

1. David wanted to help his countrymen at Keilah. What was his first step in the process? (vv. 1-2).

2. What important principle is shown here? In what way might you follow David's example this coming week?

3. In verse 3 did David's men struggle to accept God's will? Why?

4. What might David's men have learned from their battle at Keilah?

5. Though David had helped the people of Keilah, what sad truth did he have to face? (vv. 7-13). What did David do when he realized what might soon happen?

6. What phrase in 23:14 illustrates God's sovereign control?

7. When David was tired and discouraged what did God do? (vv. 16-18).

8. What phrase indicates the main purpose of Jonathan's visit?

9. What rare character traits does Saul's son, Jonathon, display?

10. Who besides Saul was causing David hardship? (vv. 19-24). Why would this treachery have been difficult for David to face?

11. Describe the severity of the situation shown in vv. 25-26.

12. When hope of deliverance was almost gone, what did God do? (v. 27).

13. What application do you see here for life?

14. Psalm 54 also describes this event. What is suggested here as the reason the people of Ziph turned against David?

15. What hope did David express in this psalm?

16. Apply this same hope to a circumstance you are facing.
