

## Searching for Next Step 2of2

*Series on Following God's Schedule*

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### Part 2of2

Part 1  
Christ's Teaching  
Interactions with Man Born Blind

Part 2  
David Searches for Next Path  
After Breakup with Saul

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### David Searches for Next Path After Breakup with Saul

- Identified immediate and long-term needs
- Protection from Saul
- Economic viability
- Building leadership reputation in Israel
- Protection for his family [parents]
- Recruiting followers
- Protection for his followers and families

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### Short-Term Food and Weapon

- David collected short-term food supply and weapon from Priest of Nob
  - Leftover consecrated bread
  - Sword won from Goliath
- 1 Samuel 21:6 and 9

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### Outcome of David-Ahimelek Visit

- Outcomes of David-Ahimelek interaction
- Saul massacred priests of Nob
- Ended priesthood lineage of Eli, except ...
- Abiathar joined David with priesthood service
- Long-term priestly service with David
- Joined Adonijah in attempted usurpation
- Solomon retired Abiathar and ended priesthood lineage of Eli

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### 1 Samuel 21 (NIV)

6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

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### 1 Samuel 21 (NIV)

9 The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one."

David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

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### Attempted Escape into Enemy Territory

- Tried to escape into Philistine territory
- Abandoned the attempt
- Conditions indicated plan would be unsafe
- Philistines would consider him a price catch instead of refugee
- 1 Samuel 21:10–14 [Not read in session]

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### Refuge at Cave of Adullam

- Stayed long enough to initiate plans for the longer term
- Received members of his family
- And four hundred followers
- 1 Samuel 22:1–2

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### 1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

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### Attempted Escape into Neutral Foreign Territory

- Intended to take refuge in Moab territory
- Negotiated refuge for parents
- Prophet Gad advised him to return to Judah
- Moved to forest of Hereth
- 1 Samuel 22:3–5

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### 1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold.

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### 1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

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### David Selects a New Path

- Work with his private army [band of followers]
- Protection for himself and followers
- And their families
- Conduct selected raids to defend Israel
- Provide for himself and followers through selected raids and plunder
- 1 Samuel 22:20–23
- 1 Samuel 23:1–5

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### 1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

20 But one son of Ahimelek son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled to join David.

21 He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord.

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### 1 Samuel 22 (NIV)

22 Then David said to Abiathar, "That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your whole family.

23 Stay with me; don't be afraid. The man who wants to kill you is trying to kill me too. You will be safe with me."

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### 1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

1 When David was told, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are looting the threshing floors,"

2 he inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?"

The Lord answered him, "Go, attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

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### 1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

3 But David's men said to him, "Here in Judah we are afraid. How much more, then, if we go to Keilah against the Philistine forces!"

4 Once again David inquired of the Lord, and the Lord answered him, "Go down to Keilah, for I am going to give the Philistines into your hand."

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## 1 Samuel 23 (NIV)

5 So David and his men went to Keilah, fought the Philistines and carried off their livestock. He inflicted heavy losses on the Philistines and saved the people of Keilah.

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## What We Learned

- End of one step [task, path] provides conditions for the next step [task, path]
- Often there are competing options
- Evaluate available options
  - Short-term objectives
  - Long-term objectives
  - Seek and follow God's guidance
- Select next step [task, path]

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