

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 33: Chapter 21:1-9

17 February 2017

THE EATING OF THE HALLOWED SHEWBREAD

When David had a need, he went to the house of God to meet that need. This account is referred to by the Lord Jesus to teach a lesson about being merciful to those with needs.

Mark 2:23-28

The Pharisees complained to Jesus about His disciples laboring on the Sabbath. Jesus referred to the account of David eating the hallowed shewbread to correct the Pharisees' backward understanding of the Sabbath.

- God instituted the Sabbath command as a benefit to man, not as a burden.
- Church attendance is not a duty, a burden, or an obligation. It's a gift from God.
- Jesus and His disciples were not breaking any commandments. They were meeting their needs in accordance with God's allowances (**Deut. 23:25**), just as David was in First Samuel 21.

Matthew 12:1-7

This is the same account, but Matthew adds some additional information. Jesus said that the priests profaned the Sabbath (by working) and were blameless (vs. 5). The priests worked harder on the Sabbath than on any other day.

- The Lord appreciates when we show mercy towards our fellow man (vs. 7). He's more concerned about our heart condition than He is about our outward actions ("*sacrifice*").
- Jesus pointed out that the Pharisees cared more about their own position and place than they did about the people.
- Jesus offered "**rest unto your souls**" (Matthew 11:28-29). Immediately after that, the Pharisees enforced the Sabbath day as a burden on every soul.
 - We can come unto Jesus and find rest that the Sabbath and the Law and the Commandments couldn't provide, thanks to God's mercy and grace.

FOUR TYPES OF FOOD IN THE SANCTUARY

1. **THE SIN OFFERING:** speaks of self-judgment. Examine yourself (1 Cor. 11:28). Why did the Lord Jesus have to offer Himself as a sin offering for you?
 2. **THE MEAT OFFERING:** speaks of the new order of man (2 Cor. 5:17, Gal. 6:15). Our carnal flesh is to be burned (1 Cor. 13:3), crucified (Gal. 2:20), mortified (Col. 3:5), and offered sacrificially to God (Rom. 12:1).
 3. **THE SHOULDER** (Exod. 29:27): speaks of strength. Coming to the house of God to sing praises and hear God's word ought to strengthen our inner man (Luke 22:32, 1 Peter 5:10).
 4. **THE SHEWBREAD:** speaks of the communion of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:16). Breaking bread together and opening the Bible together brings us into closer fellowship with the Lord and with one another. Fellowship is a very important factor in the Christian life.
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DAVID ASKED FOR FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD (Vs. 3).

JOHN 6:1-13 Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves (vs. 8). This “*coincidence*” reinforces the fact that the whole Bible presents Jesus Christ and His work from Genesis to Revelation. (In type, David represents Jesus Christ).

HOLY BREAD VS. COMMON BREAD

During King Saul’s reign, the priesthood was out of order. Worship and sacrifice was not being conducted in accordance with God’s instructions. Therefore, the things that were supposed to be “holy” were just common and ordinary.

- Putting the name “Holy” on something doesn’t make it holy. It must be utilized in accordance with God’s word. If you’re not doing things the way God said to do it, there’s nothing holy about it.
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A SEEMING CONTRADICTION

Comparing 1 Samuel 21:1 with Mark 2:26 has caused many “scholars” to assume that there is a contradiction between the two accounts in the Bible.

- You will find that unsaved, ungodly people are remarkably capable of pointing out the “*contradictions*” in the Bible. This is the work of the Devil attempting to keep lost people from trusting God’s word.
 - There are several possible explanations for why two different names are given for the priest in these two verses:
 - Under the “out of order” priesthood, sometimes there would be a “chief priest” and a “second priest.” (Jer. 52:24).
 - Today some churches have a Pastor and an Assistant Pastor.
 - In First Samuel 21, Ahimelech is not called the High Priest.
 - Ahimelech is said to be the son of Abiathar (2 Sam. 8:17).
 - In New Testament times, the priestly order was so out of order that there were two high priests at the same time (Luke 3:2).
 - Jesus only said that Abiathar was the High Priest in those days. He didn’t say that David spoke to him (Mark 2:26).
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DOEG THE EDMITE (Vs. 7)

Edomites were long-time sworn enemies of Israel (Esau; the enemy of Jacob). Doeg, being an enemy of God, should not have been allowed in the house of God.

The church is a place for saved, born again, believers to fellowship, worship, study the Bible, and sing praises unto God. —It is not a hangout for sinful people. In fact, when you have sufficient proof that someone is engaged in sinful acts, you are to make sure that they aren’t allowed in the church house until they repent of their sin (1 Cor. 5:1-8).

Sinful people are a danger to other church members. Their presence will cause the godly standards that are supposed to be maintained in the church to be compromised. When the pastor allows wicked people to stay, others will assume that their sin is okay. After a while the standards of holiness will fall by the wayside and the church will be named “Ichabod” (The glory is departed; 1 Sam 4:21).

Doeg was a man who wanted to destroy God’s man, David. God hates such men as this (Prov. 6:16-19). You’ll destroy your life if you follow Doeg’s example and try to destroy a church or a preacher.

David wrote a Psalm about Doeg the Edomite (Psalm 52).
