

April 15 Answers

- 1) David and Jonathan's sad parting, and David's capture and escape from the Philistines in Gath. Saul and Jonathan both recognized that it was God's **will** for David to be the next king of Israel, yet their **reactions** were completely different. Saul tried to kill David (extreme **opposition**) while Jonathan helped David (cheerful **obedience**). Jonathan could have stepped aside and done nothing, but instead he actively **supported** and defended the man who would one day be king in his place. This teaches us that commitment to God's will means obeying in spite of personal **loss**. [*Are we so committed to doing God's will that we would cheerfully help someone gain a position that should have been ours?*] After leaving Jonathan, David went to Ahimelech the priest in Nob. David **deceived** Ahimelech to gain his help, and while his motive may have been good (he no doubt wanted Ahimelech to be able to honestly claim **ignorance** of the truth), his deception was **questionable** at best and **sinful** at worst. This shows us how easy it is to rely on our own **devices** instead of on God in times of need. David knew that Saul wouldn't rest until he was dead, and he decided to take refuge with Saul's enemies, the **Philistines**. The idea of David defecting was exciting at first, but then prudence prevailed ("Is this not David the **king** of the land?"), and they seized him. David saved himself by acting insane, and Achish threw him out of Gath in disgust: 'Do I lack **madmen** around here? Get him out!' Once again God had delivered David from death.