

I. Introduction

The first place David sought while being pursued by Saul was the priestly community of Ahimelech. Ahimelech gave David the consecrated bread—bread that only priests were permitted to eat—breaking the letter of the Law.

Doeg accused those who broke the Law before the king, which led to the death of the priest's family.

What lessons can we learn from this event?

II. Main Body

Whose actions were right—those of Ahimelech or those of Doeg?

Was Ahimelech right to show mercy to a starving man by giving him bread even if it meant breaking the Law?

Or was Doeg right for accusing those who violated the Law?

Jesus affirmed the priest who gave bread to the hungry David (Matthew 12:3-4).

God desires love above the Law (Matthew 12:7).

Interpretation by Pastor Eugene Peterson: David's spirituality was rooted in reality.

"Ahimelech was faithful to the spirit of the Law, while Doeg was a political man."

1. Doeg used Scripture not to apply it to himself but to attack others.

The Pharisees also used the Law to condemn others.

Jesus said to listen to their words but not to follow their actions (Matthew 23:3-4).

The blessing is not in merely knowing the Word, but in applying it personally and obeying it.

2. Ahimelech encouraged and saved, but Doeg condemned.

The church needs more people like Ahimelech, not Doeg.

Look at others not through the lenses of the Law, but through the measure of love and mercy.

Illustration 1: Story of a professor at a theological seminary

Illustration 2: Story of a robber who entered an elderly couple's home

God is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Those who have received mercy must also show compassion to their neighbors

(Matthew 18:33; 5:7; James 2:13).

3. The true nature of the church

After receiving bread, David also received a sword from Ahimelech and was equipped.

David left the sanctuary with a full stomach and renewed courage and strength from Goliath's sword.

Doeg accused Ahimelech before Saul with these three points: "He gave David food, he gave him a sword, and he prayed for him" (1 Samuel 22:1).

This is the true image of the church.

The church must offer the Word (bread and sword) to those who come weary and support them through prayer.

Pastor Eugene Peterson's understanding of the role of the sanctuary (church)

III. Conclusion

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“If you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.” Matthew 12:7 (ESV)

**Bible
Reading**

12/8(Mon)	12/9(Tue)	12/10(Wed)	12/11(Thur)	12/12(Fri)	12/13(Sat)	12/14(Sun)
2 Cor 8-11	2 Cor 12-13, Gal. 1-2	Gal. 3-5	Gal. 6, Eph. 1-4	Eph. 5-6, Phil. 1-2	Phil. 3-4, Col. 1-2	Col. 3-4, 1 Thess. 1-3

QT

Quiet Time Passage

12/8(Mon)	12/9(Tue)	12/10(Wed)	12/11(Thur)	12/12(Fri)	12/13(Sat)	12/14(Sun)
Joshua 15:13-19	Joshua 15:20-63	Joshua 16:1-10	Joshua 17:1-13	Joshua 17:14-18	Joshua 18:1-10	Joshua 18:11-29

**Sharing
Questions**

1. From today's message, share one point that was especially graceful or moving to your heart.
2. What kind of person was Ahimelech the priest, and what kind of person was Doeg? The pastor mentioned that the church needs more people like Ahimelech rather than Doeg. Why is that?
3. In Matthew 18, Jesus did not rebuke Ahimelech for giving food even though it required breaking the Law, nor did He rebuke David for asking for food even though he lied. Instead, He defended them. Share one thing you found in Scripture that shows how deeply Jesus (or God) values and has compassion on each individual.
4. The pastor said the church is a place that gives bread and a sword to those weary from life, and through prayer helps them gain new courage and strength. Share one thing our church needs to do in order to fulfill this mission.