

# 1 Samuel 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

## Analysis

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**And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.**

David's plan leveraged the New Moon feast (rosh chodesh) as test of Saul's intentions. His obligation to 'sit with the king at meat' was formal court protocol; absence would be noticed. The phrase 'hide myself in the field' shows David's continued fear despite Jonathan's assurances. The 'third day' allowed time for Saul's response to develop fully. Prudent planning combined with trust in God - David did not presume on past deliverances but prepared for the worst while hoping for the best.

## Historical Context

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New Moon festivals were observed with special sacrifices and feasts (Numbers 28:11-15). Court officials were expected to attend royal feasts. The three-day period provided sufficient time to assess Saul's response. David's planned hiding place would later become the location for Jonathan's arrow signal.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you balance trusting God with making prudent preparations for danger?
2. What does David's strategic planning teach about faithful wisdom in threatening situations?

## Interlinear Text

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חִזְבָּן הַבָּנָה יְהוָנָתִים | אֶל יְהוָה תְּדַבֵּר וְאֶתְמָר  
said And David H413 unto Jonathan H2009 is the new moon  
H559 H1732 H3083 H2320

עַם אֲשֶׁר בְּאַשְׁר בְּאַשְׁר  
Behold to morrow H595 and I should not fail and I should not fail H5973  
H4279 H3427

בְּשָׁדָה אֶנְסְּפָרָתִים וְשָׁלַחֲתִי לֹאכְלָל בְּמִלְחָמָה  
with the king at meat but let me go that I may hide myself in the field H5704  
H4428 H398 H7971 H5641 H7704

בְּשִׁלְשִׁיתִים בְּעַתְּכָבְדָה  
day at even unto the third H7992  
H6153

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 10:10** (Parallel theme): Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the

trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

**Numbers 28:11** (Parallel theme): And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

**1 Samuel 19:2** (References David): But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

**Psalms 81:3** (Parallel theme): Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.

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