

# 1 Samuel 21:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?

## Analysis

**Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? shall this fellow come into my house?**

Achish's rhetorical questions complete David's deliverance through dismissal. The Hebrew 'chaser meshugga'im' (lacking madmen) sarcastically implies he already has enough troubled individuals around him. His refusal to allow David into his 'house' (royal court) effectively banished the fugitive from Philistine territory. The double reference to 'this fellow' (Hebrew 'zeh') expresses contempt—yet this contempt saved David's life. Psalm 34's superscription connects it to this event, where David praises God: 'I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.' What appeared as degrading self-abasement became the vehicle of divine deliverance.

## Historical Context

Ancient royal courts carefully controlled access to the king's presence. Achish's rejection meant David would be expelled from Gath, removing the immediate threat while leaving him homeless. This began David's wilderness wandering period.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Psalm 34, written after this event, reshape your understanding of this passage?
2. When has rejection or dismissal by others actually been God's means of protection?

## Interlinear Text

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אַתָּה יְבָא וְאַבְדָּל רַבְדָּל עַל הַשְׁתִּיגְעַן אָנָּה  
Have I need of mad men in my presence shall this fellow come  
H2638 H7696 H589 H3588 H935 H853

אַל יְבָא וְאַבְדָּל עַל הַשְׁתִּיגְעַן יְבָא וְאַבְדָּל  
H2088 of mad men in my presence shall this fellow come H413  
H7696 H5921 H2088 H935

בֵּיתִי  
into my house  
H1004