

# 1 Samuel 22:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

## Analysis

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**Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.**

David's offer of protection transforms guilt into redemptive action. The Hebrew imperatives 'shevah' (abide/stay) and 'al-tira' (fear not) provide comfort and command. The shared danger—"he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life"—creates solidarity between fugitive king and surviving priest. David's promise 'with me thou shalt be in safeguard' (Hebrew 'mishmeret') pledges guardianship. Having caused Abiathar's loss, David now commits to his protection. This union of future king and surviving priest establishes a partnership that would serve David throughout his reign. The one whose deception caused the massacre now becomes the protector of the one who survived it—grace working through human failure.

## Historical Context

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David's acceptance of Abiathar created a lasting alliance between the Davidic monarchy and the Levitical priesthood. Abiathar served as David's priest until Solomon's reign, providing crucial spiritual guidance through the ephod's divine consultation.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can we transform guilt over past failures into present redemptive action?
2. What does David's protection of Abiathar teach about taking responsibility for those harmed by our choices?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁבַת הָ	אַל אַתִּי	תִּירְאֵנִי	אַשְׁר כִּי	יְבָקֵשׁ שֶׁ
<b>Abide</b> H3427	H854 H408	<b>thou with me fear</b> H3372	H3588 H834	<b>not for he that seeketh</b> H1245
אַתְּ נֶפֶשׁ בָּ	יְבָקֵשׁ שֶׁ	אַתְּ נֶפֶשׁ בָּ	כִּי	
H853 <b>my life</b> H5315	<b>not for he that seeketh</b> H1245	H853 <b>my life</b> H5315	H3588	
מִשְׁמָמָתְךָ	עַמְּדֵי אַתָּה			
<b>but with me thou shalt be in safeguard</b> H4931	H859	H5978		

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Kings 2:26** (Parallel theme): And unto Abiathar the priest said the king, Get thee to Anathoth, unto thine own fields; for thou art worthy of death: but I will not at this time put thee to death, because thou barest the ark of the Lord GOD before David my father, and because thou hast been afflicted in all wherein my father was afflicted.

**John 18:9** (Parallel theme): That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

**John 15:20** (Parallel theme): Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep your's also.

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