

# Vayechi: The Gift of Second Chances

- (Submitted by Doniel Kramer). In the Haftorah we learn about Abiathar's disloyalty to David. God mercifully allowed Abiathar to avoid certain death twice. We must remember the many "second chances" G-d gives us and express our thanks.

## THE GIFT OF SECOND CHANCES

[this incident is a follow-up to the story found in the haftorah for Va-yechi] Shared by Joe Gatuslao Jul 29, 2005 Excerpted from "Life Lessons from Bible People"

The Gift of Mercy (orig. ttle)

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To Abiathar the priest the king said,... "You deserve to die, but I will not put you to death now."  
(1 Kings 2:26)

God mercifully allowed Abiathar to avoid certain death twice during his lifetime. The first time, he escaped with nothing but the ephod on his back-- a special robe identifying him as a priest. A vengeful King Saul had all the other priests and their families in the city of Nob killed for helping David, but David welcomed Abiathar into his protection.

David trusted Abiathar for many years. But instead of a lifetime of gratefulness to God and loyalty to David, Abiathar eventually conspired against David and Solomon, God's choice for the next king. But he was again shown tremendous mercy and lost only his priestly position as punishment for his disloyalty.

There are many times in our lives when we are given second chances and experience great mercy. Perhaps you have been given another chance in a damaged relationship or an important opportunity you thought you'd blown. Some people would call it good luck. We know it to be a gift from the merciful hand of God. Like Abiathar, we may be tempted to neglect our gratefulness to God and to others for their graciousness. Make it a point this week to remember the many "second chances" you have recently received, and express your thanks.

Thank God for the many ways you experience His mercy.

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