

David and the Showbread

Q: “So, in Mark 2:26, did Jesus think that David was sinning when he ate the consecrated bread?”

Answer:

- No, since Jesus was defending his disciples against sin charges by citing David’s example.
- Jesus said that David’s action was “unlawful,” which I believe refers to a breach of procedure. Ancient scholars prior to Christ often raised questions about why David was never criticized for doing this.
- The question was what gave David the right to do this. The answer is that he was God’s appointed king over Israel and also a prototype of the Messiah. David was correctly applying the law in his situation and he (uniquely in his time) had the authority to make such a decision. The parallel is Jesus’ authority over the Sabbath: “The Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath” (Mk. 2:28).