1 Samuel 14:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

Analysis

Then said Jonathan, My father hath troubled the land: see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.

Jonathan's response - 'My father hath troubled the land' - directly challenges royal authority. The Hebrew akar ('troubled') is the same word used for Achan's sin (Joshua 7:25), suggesting the oath brings corporate harm like covenant violation. Jonathan's evidence is personal and practical: 'see, I pray you, how mine eyes have been enlightened, because I tasted a little of this honey.' He argues from experience against his father's theology. Obedience to a bad order would have hindered rather than helped.

Historical Context

Jonathan's critique of Saul echoes Joshua's charge against Achan - that individual action brought trouble on the entire community. The reversal is striking: Jonathan accuses the king of the very thing kings should prevent. His public criticism of royal authority was extraordinary.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When is it appropriate to publicly critique authority figures whose commands harm the community?
2. How does Jonathan's 'see for yourself' argument model addressing bad leadership decisions?

Interlinear Text

נָא	רְאוּ	הָאָ רֶץ	אֶת	אָבִ י	עָכַ ר	יְוֹנָתָ ן	וַיֹּ אמֶר
H4994	see	the land	H853	My father	hath troubled	Jonathan	Then said
	H7200	H776		H1	H5916	H3129	H559

כִּי	אֹ רוּ	עֵינַ י	כִּ י	טָעַ מְתִּי
H3588	have been enlightened	I pray you how mine eyes	H3588	because I tasted
	H215	H5869		H2938

מְעַ ט	דְּבַ שׁ	הַזֶּה:
a little	of this honey	H2088
H4592	H1706	

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:18 (Parallel theme): And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.