

1 Samuel 14:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.

Analysis

And Saul said, Draw ye near hither, all the chief of the people: and know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.

Saul summons 'all the chief of the people' to 'know and see wherein this sin hath been this day.' He assumes sin exists and determines to find the sinner. His process is correct (involving leadership, seeking identification of sin), but his self-examination is absent. The irony intensifies: Saul will discover his own son violated his own rash oath, yet never questions whether the oath itself was the problem. He seeks sins in others while blind to his own.

Historical Context

Investigating sin through lot-casting was established procedure (Joshua 7:14-18). The process involved progressively narrowing identification until the guilty party was revealed. Saul follows proper procedure while missing the larger issue.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can proper procedures for addressing sin miss the actual problem?
2. When have you searched for fault in others while missing your own contribution to a situation?

Interlinear Text

רֹאשׁוֹ	וְשָׁאַל	גַּשְׁוֹ	כִּלְמָן	כִּלְמָן	פָּנִים	פָּנִים
said	And Saul	Draw ye near	hither	H3605	all the chief	of the people
H559	H7586	H5066	H1988		H6438	H5971
וְדַע	וְרָא	בְּמַה	בִּיתָה	בְּמַטָּה	זֶה	בַּיּוֹם
and know	and see	wherein	H1961	this sin	H2063	hath been this day
H3045	H7200	H4100		H2403		H3117

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