

# 1 Samuel 18:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

## Analysis

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**And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.**

The instruction to 'commune secretly' (balat) reveals Saul's calculated deception. The servants become unwitting accomplices in conveying false assurance: 'the king hath delight in thee.' Every word was lies - Saul felt no delight, only murderous jealousy. The phrase 'all his servants love thee' may have been true, which made Saul's hatred more isolated and more dangerous. Using servants as instruments of deception corrupted the entire royal household. False words delivered through trusted intermediaries represent a particularly insidious form of manipulation.

## Historical Context

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Royal courts functioned through intermediaries who conveyed messages between social levels. Servants bore responsibility for accurate transmission but served the king's interests. Being commanded to lie placed them in moral jeopardy.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

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

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you evaluate words that come through intermediaries rather than directly?
2. What does it mean when institutional structures are used to convey deception?

## Interlinear Text

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צִוָּה	וְ	שָׁא	לְ	יִצְאֵ	אַת	עֲבָדָךְ	וְ	דִּבֶּרְתָּ	אַל	צִוָּה	וְ	אַל	צִוָּה	וְ	צִוָּה		
<b>commanded</b>	<b>And Saul</b>	H853	<b>his servants</b>	H5650	<b>saying</b>	<b>Commune</b>	H1696	<b>with David</b>	H413								
H6680	H7586																
בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:	בְּמַלְכָה:		
<b>secretly</b>	<b>and say</b>	H2009	<b>hath delight</b>	H2654	H0	<b>Behold the king</b>	H4428										
H3909	H559																
הַתִּמְמָתָן	וְ	אֶחָד	וְ	עֲבָדָךְ	וְ	הַתִּמְמָתָן	וְ	בְּמַלְכָה:	וְ	בְּמַלְכָה:	וְ	בְּמַלְכָה:	וְ	בְּמַלְכָה:	וְ	בְּמַלְכָה:	
<b>his servants</b>	<b>love</b>	H6258	<b>son in law</b>	H2859	<b>Behold the king</b>	H4428											
H5650	H157																