

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

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

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

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

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

וַיֹּצֵא	וְשָׂא וְלֹא	אֶת	עֲבָדָיו	וַיִּדְבֹּר וַיֹּ	אֵל	דָּוִד
commanded	And Saul	H853	his servants	saying Commune	H413	with David
H6680	H7586		H5650	H1696		H1732
וַיִּסְכֹּר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְהִנֵּה	חֵפְץ	בְּךָ	בַּמֶּלֶךְ:	וְכָל
secretly	and say	H2009	hath delight	H0	Behold the king	H3605
H3909	H559		H2654		H4428	
עֲבָדָיו	וְאֶהֱבֶה וְ	וְעַתָּה	וְהַתַּחַת	בַּמֶּלֶךְ:		
his servants	love	H6258	son in law	Behold the king		
H5650	H157		H2859	H4428		