

# 1 Samuel 18:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David.  
And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

## Analysis

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**And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?**

David's response to the servants reveals continued humility: he describes himself as 'a poor man, and lightly esteemed.' The Hebrew *rush* (poor) and *qalal* (light/insignificant) contrast sharply with his actual reputation as national hero. Either David maintained genuine self-perception despite success, or he wisely recognized the social realities that made royal marriage an unlikely honor for one of his station. His question 'Seemeth it to you a light thing?' invites the servants to consider the enormity of what they propose.

## Historical Context

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Bride prices for royal marriages were substantial, beyond the means of common families. David's military position provided income but not wealth appropriate for royal alliance. His humble response may also reflect wariness given Merab's previous denial.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain humble self-perception despite external success or recognition?
2. What wisdom might lie in David's caution about seemingly generous offers?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיְדַבֵּר וְ	עַבְדֵי י	שָׁאוּל	בְּאָזְנֵי י	וְדָוִד	אֶת	הַדְּבָרִים
spake	servants	And Saul's	in the ears	And David	H853	those words
H1696	H5650	H7586	H241	H1732		H1697
וַיֹּאמֶר הָאֵל לְהַ	וַיֹּאמֶר	וְדָוִד	הַנֶּקֶלֶתָּה	בְּעֵינֵיכֶם	הַתַּחַתִּי	וְ
H428	said	And David	it to you a light	Seemeth	son in law	
	H559	H1732	H7043	H5869	H2859	
בְּמֶלֶךְ	וְאֶנֶכִּי	אִישׁ	כִּי שֶׁ	וְנִקְלָה:		
thing to be a king's	H595	man	seeing that I am a poor	and lightly esteemed		
H4428		H376	H7326	H7034		