

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

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

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

פָּדַבְּרָ יְמָ	אַתָּ	לְיִדְבָּר	וְ	שָׁאֹל	בְּאַזְגָּן	וְ	עָבֵד	וְ	יִדְבָּר	וְ
spake	servants	And Saul's	in the ears	And David						
H1696	H5650	H7586	H241	H1732						
הָתַפְתָּ בְּעִינֵיכֶם	בְּנַקְלַת הָ	לְיִדְ	וְיִאמְרָ	פָּאַ לָהּ						
H428	said	And David	it to you a light	Seemeth						
	H559	H1732	H7043	H5869						
וְנִזְלָה:	כַּש	אִישׁ	וְאַנְכִּי	בְּתַלְמָ						
thing to be a king's	man	seeing that I am a poor	and lightly esteemed							
H4428	H595	H376	H7326	H7034						

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