

1 Samuel 18:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

Analysis

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?

Saul's question 'what can he have more but the kingdom?' reveals the root of his jealousy - fear of losing power. The Hebrew charah (to burn with anger) indicates intense emotional response. Saul correctly perceived that popular acclaim could translate into political power. His spiritual condition transformed what should have been national celebration into personal threat. Fear of man replaced fear of God.

Historical Context

Ancient monarchies frequently faced challenges from successful military commanders who leveraged popularity into coups. Saul's fear had historical precedent, though David gave no indication of such ambitions. The progression from anger to suspicion ('eyed David') marks Saul's descent.

Related Passages

[John 3:16](#) — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does insecurity corrupt perception of others' success?
2. What does Saul's fear teach about the relationship between spiritual health and leadership security?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָרְבָּן	בְּעִינֵי	וְיִרְעָא	מֵאָד	לְשָׁאָל	בְּקָרְבָּן
wroth	And Saul	was very	displeased	H5869	and the saying
H2734	H7586	H3966	H3415		H2088
				H1697	
וְיִאמֶר	וְיִתְּהַנֵּן	לְדִיד	וְתַּחַת	רַבְבָּה	וְלֹא
him and he said	They have ascribed	unto David	ten thousands	H0	
H559	H5414	H1732	H7233		
וְיִתְּהַנֵּן	לְמֵאָלֵף	וְלֹא	וְעַד	וְתַּחַת	אֵת
They have ascribed	but thousands	H5750	H0	H389	
H5414	H505				
בְּמַלְכָּה:					
and what can he have more but the kingdom					
H4410					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 15:28 (Kingdom): And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

Proverbs 13:10 (Parallel theme): Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

James 4:5 (Parallel theme): Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

1 Samuel 20:31 (Kingdom): For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

Esther 3:5 (Parallel theme): And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.

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