

1 Samuel 20:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

Analysis

Then Jonathan said to David, To morrow is the new moon: and thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.

Jonathan's statement 'thy seat will be empty' acknowledges David's established position at the royal table. The empty seat would force Saul to notice David's absence and reveal his response. The phrase 'thou shalt be missed' (paqad, to visit/attend to) indicates both David's importance and the test's mechanism. Sometimes absence speaks more clearly than presence. David's empty seat would provoke Saul to reveal what he concealed when David was present.

Historical Context

Fixed seating arrangements at royal feasts reflected status and favor. David's assigned seat indicated his honored position in the court. Absence from required royal functions demanded explanation and drew attention.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. When has your absence from a situation revealed others' true attitudes toward you?
2. How can strategic withdrawal create opportunities for hidden realities to surface?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	יְהוֹנָתָן	מָחָר	ה' הַדָּשׁ	יִפָּקֵד
said	H0	Then Jonathan	To morrow	is the new moon	and thou shalt be missed
H559		H3083	H4279	H2320	H6485
וְ	יִפָּקֵד	מִשְׁבְּעֶךָ:			
H3588	and thou shalt be missed	because thy seat			
	H6485	H4186			

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 20:25 (References David): And the king sat upon his seat, as at other times, even upon a seat by the wall: and Jonathan arose, and Abner sat by Saul's side, and David's place was empty.

1 Samuel 20:5 (References David): And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.