

1 Samuel 20:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem:

Analysis

And Jonathan answered Saul, David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Beth-lehem:

Jonathan delivered the prepared explanation: David had 'earnestly asked leave' for Bethlehem. The phrase 'earnestly asked' (nish'ol nish'al) intensifies the request, suggesting David's compelling need. Jonathan addressed his father while walking a dangerous line between truth and protection. His answer was literally accurate - David had indeed requested permission through Jonathan - while concealing the fuller purpose. Sometimes protecting the innocent requires careful speech that is true but not complete.

Historical Context

Permission requests through intermediaries were common court protocol. Jonathan as prince could grant leave to courtiers. The intensive verb form emphasized David's sincere desire for family religious observance.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When is incomplete truth permissible to protect innocent life?
2. What wisdom does Jonathan demonstrate in his careful response to Saul?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן
answered	And Jonathan	H853	Saul	asked	asked	David	leave of me
H6030	H3083		H7586	H7592	H7592	H1732	H5978
עַד	בֵּית	לָחֶם:					
H5704	H0	to go to Bethlehem					
		H1035					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 20:6 (References David): If thy father at all miss me, then say, David earnestly asked leave of me that he might run to Beth-lehem his city: for there is a yearly sacrifice there for all the family.