

1 Samuel 20:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

Analysis

And he said, Let me go, I pray thee; for our family hath a sacrifice in the city; and my brother, he hath commanded me to be there: and now, if I have found favour in thine eyes, let me get away, I pray thee, and see my brethren. Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.

Jonathan expands the explanation with details lending credibility: family sacrifice, brother's command, polite request. The phrase 'if I have found favour in thine eyes' uses deferential language. Mentioning the brother's command shifted responsibility away from David's initiative. Jonathan concluded definitively: 'Therefore he cometh not unto the king's table.' The elaborate explanation provided cover while testing Saul's true response. Every detail had been planned to create plausible reason for absence while provoking revelation of Saul's intentions.

Historical Context

Family sacrifices at ancestral locations were regular religious obligations. Brothers typically organized family gatherings, making this detail believable. The polite request formula 'if I have found favour' was standard deferential speech.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do careful details create believable explanations?
2. What does Jonathan's elaborate response reveal about the preparation required for difficult conversations?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	שְׁלַח נִי	כִּי	זָבַח	מִשְׁפָּחָה
And he said	Let me go		hath a sacrifice	I pray thee for our family
H559	H7971	H4994 H3588	H2077	H4940
לְנוֹ	בְּעִיר	וְהָיָה	צִוָּה	אֶתִּי
H0	in the city	H1931	he hath commanded	H0 and my brother
	H5892		H6680	H251 H6258
אֲנִי	מֵעַתָּה	אֶתִּי	חֵן	בְּעֵינֶיךָ
H518	me to be there and now if I have found		favour	in thine eyes
	H4672		H2580	H5869 H4422
אֶתִּי	וְאֶרְאֶה	אֶתִּי	אֶתִּי	עַל
H4994	I pray thee and see	H853	and my brother	H5921 H3651 H3808
	H7200		H251	
בָּא	אֶל	שֻׁלְחָן	הַמֶּלֶךְ	
Therefore he cometh	H413	table	not unto the king's	
H935		H7979	H4428	