

1 Samuel 20:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

Analysis

But the lad knew not any thing: only Jonathan and David knew the matter.

The narrator's observation - 'the lad knew not any thing' - emphasizes the secrecy's success. Two friends shared knowledge that affected kingdoms while a boy simply retrieved arrows. The phrase 'only Jonathan and David knew the matter' highlights their intimate bond; in a world of intrigue and danger, they alone understood. Such shared secrets deepen friendship. The boy's innocence protected him; what he did not know could not be extracted. Sometimes protecting others means keeping them ignorant of burdens they cannot bear.

Historical Context

Protecting servants from dangerous knowledge was both kind and prudent. Tortured servants could not reveal what they did not know. The exclusive knowledge between Jonathan and David intensified their covenantal bond.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What secrets do you share with close friends that others cannot understand?
2. How does protecting others from dangerous knowledge demonstrate wisdom?

Interlinear Text

וְהַנַּעַר	לֹא	יָדַע וְ	מֵא וְמָה	אֵל	יְהוֹנָתָן	וְדָוִד	יָדַע וְ
But the lad	H3808	knew	not any thing	H389	only Jonathan	and David	knew
H5288		H3045	H3972		H3083	H1732	H3045

אֵת	הַדָּבָר:
H853	the matter
	H1697

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