

1 Samuel 20:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry them to the city.

Analysis

And Jonathan gave his artillery unto his lad, and said unto him, Go, carry them to the city.

Jonathan dismissed the servant - 'Go, carry them to the city' - creating privacy for his farewell with David. The term 'artillery' (bow and arrows) represented the tools of communication that had served their purpose. Sending the boy away removed the witness, allowing the friends to meet directly despite the danger. Jonathan's instruction was simple but decisive, ending the coded communication phase and beginning their final private moments. Sometimes we must create space for grief and farewell by dismissing others.

Historical Context

The Hebrew term translated 'artillery' refers to bow and arrows. Servants typically carried equipment for their masters. Sending the boy to the city removed him from the field, creating isolation for the friends' parting.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you create space for significant private moments with close friends?
2. What does Jonathan's deliberate dismissal of the servant teach about the importance of unwitnessed farewell?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּן	וְהוֹנֵתָן	אֶת	כָּל יוֹ	אֶל	הַנֶּעֱר	אֲשֶׁר	לֹ
gave	And Jonathan	H853	his artillery	H413	unto his lad	H834	H0
H5414	H3083		H3627		H5288		
וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹ	לֵךְ	הֵב יָא	הָעִיר:			
and said	H0	H1980	carry	them to the city			
H559			H935	H5892			

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