

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

ל	וְאֲשֶׁר	הַבָּעֵר	אֶל	כָּל	וְאַתָּה	וְיְהוָה	תִּתְּנַחַת	תִּתְּנַחַת	תִּתְּנַחַת
gave	And Jonathan	H853	his artillery	H413	unto his lad	H834			H0
H5414	H3083		H3627		H5288				

בָּעִיר֙ לְנִילָּוּ וְאָמַרְתָּ
and said H0 H1980 carry H935 them to the city H5892

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org