

1 Samuel 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

Analysis

And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel.

David's response employs sophisticated theological reasoning. The Hebrew 'kelim' (vessels) metaphorically refers to their bodies, echoing 1 Thessalonians 4:4 where Paul uses similar language. David argues that necessity has effectively 'de-sanctified' the bread—a remarkable hermeneutical move later validated by Christ. The phrase 'in a manner common' (derek chol) suggests the holy has become permissibly ordinary given the circumstances. David's three-day separation indicates his flight began with some urgency but not total haste. This passage illustrates the biblical principle that human need takes precedence over ceremonial restrictions, a truth Jesus would explicitly affirm.

Historical Context

Ceremonial purity laws required abstinence from sexual relations before sacred encounters (Exodus 19:15). David's appeal demonstrates his familiarity with

Levitical requirements, likely gained during his time serving in Saul's court and his friendship with Samuel's prophetic community.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How did Jesus use this incident to teach about the relationship between law and grace?
2. What principles guide you in distinguishing essential commands from circumstantial applications?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	דָּוִד	אֶת	הַכֹּהֵן	וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	כִּי	אֵלָיו
answered	And David	H853	the priest	and said	H0	H3588	unto him
H6030	H1732		H3548	H559			H518
אִשָּׁה	עָצְרָה	כְּתֻמָּה	וְלִנְיוֹת	שְׁלֹשָׁה			
women	have been kept	H0	days	from us about these three			
H802	H6113		H8543	H8032			
בְּצֵאתִי	וְהָיוּ	בְּכֵלֵי	הַנְּעָרִים	קִדְּשׁ			וְהָיוּ
since I came out	H1961	and the vessels	of the young men	are holy			H1931
H3318		H3627	H5288	H6944			
וְהָיָה	לְכָל	יָדָא	כִּי	הַיּוֹם			
and the bread is in a manner	common	H637	H3588	this day			
H1870	H2455			H3117			
וְקִדְּשׁוּ	בְּכֵלֵי						
yea though it were sanctified	and the vessels						
H6942	H3627						