

1 Samuel 24:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

Analysis

And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept.

Saul's emotional response reveals a soul momentarily pierced by conscience. The Hebrew interrogative 'haqolekha zeh' (is this thy voice) suggests disbelief—Saul cannot comprehend the mercy shown him. The address 'my son David' (beni David) uses familial language that acknowledges the relationship Saul's madness had denied. His weeping (Hebrew 'vayisa qolo vayyevk') involves 'lifting his voice,' indicating loud, convulsive sobbing. This public breakdown before his army reveals how completely David's restraint overwhelmed Saul's defenses. Yet tears of emotion differ from tears of repentance—Saul wept at David's goodness without truly repenting of his own evil.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern culture valued honor and shame. Saul's public weeping before his troops represented significant loss of composure. David's speech was delivered from a safe distance, and Saul's question suggests David was far enough that recognition required confirmation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What distinguishes emotional response to conviction from genuine repentance?
2. How do you respond when someone shows you mercy you don't deserve?

Interlinear Text

כָּל וְתִּיְהִ
H1961 had made an end And it came to pass when David of speaking H853
H3615 H1732 H1696

כָּל וְשָׁא וְלֹא אָמַר יְמִינָה
these words H428 H413 And Saul said And Saul Is this thy voice H6963
H1697 H7586 H559 H7586 H6963

כָּל וְשָׁא וְלֹא יִשְׁאַל
my son And it came to pass when David lifted up And Saul Is this thy voice H6963
H2088 H1121 H1732 H5375 H7586 H6963

וְיָרַח:
and wept
H1058

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 26:17 (Kingdom): And Saul knew David's voice, and said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And David said, It is my voice, my lord, O king.

