

1 Samuel 25:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.

Analysis

And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants now a days that break away every man from his master.

Nabal's response is deliberately insulting. His rhetorical questions 'who is David?' and 'who is the son of Jesse?' feign ignorance of Israel's most famous warrior. Everyone in Judah knew David—Nabal's question is contemptuous dismissal. His reference to runaway servants implies David is a fugitive slave, not a legitimate leader. The Hebrew 'mitparettsim' (breaking away) describes violent rupture from authority. This accusation aligned with Saul's narrative that David was a rebel rather than God's anointed. Nabal's insults reflect both foolish arrogance and political calculation—he sided with Saul against David. His words would prove fatal.

Historical Context

David's fame throughout Israel made Nabal's feigned ignorance obviously contemptuous. The characterization of David as a runaway servant aligned with Saul's propaganda. Nabal's response represented not just personal insult but political statement against David's legitimacy.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What motivates people to deliberately insult those who have helped them?
2. How does Nabal's response reveal both arrogance and political alliance with Saul?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן	וַיַּעַן
answered	And Nabal	H853	servants	David's	and said	H4310	David's
H6030	H5037		H5650	H1732	H559	H1732	H4310
וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן	וְיִשְׁכָּן
and who is the son	of Jesse	now a days	there be many	servants			
H1121	H3448	H3117	H7231	H5650			
וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם	וְהַמִּתְּרֵם
that break away	every man	from	his master				
H6555	H376	H6440	H113				

Additional Cross-References

Judges 9:28 (Parallel theme): And Gaal the son of Ebed said, Who is Abimelech, and who is Shechem, that we should serve him? is not he the son of Jerubbaal? and Zebul his officer? serve the men of Hamor the father of Shechem: for why should we serve him?

