

# 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

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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וְנִזְבַּח לְעַבְדֵּי דָּיוֹד מִן־אֶת־נָבָל  
answered And Nabal H853 servants David's and said H4310 David's H4310  
H6030 H5037 H5650 H1732 H559 H1732

כִּי יְשִׁים הַיּוֹם כִּי כִּי  
and who is the son of Jesse now a days there be many servants  
H1121 H3448 H3117 H7231 H5650

אֲדֹנָיו: מִפְנֵי רַצְצִים  
that break away every man from his master  
H6555 H376 H6440 H113

## Additional Cross-References

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**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?

