

# 1 Samuel 25:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

## Analysis

---

**Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.**

David's bitter reflection reveals his mindset before meeting Abigail. The Hebrew 'akh lasheker' (surely in vain/for nothing) expresses frustration that his protection proved worthless. His summary—'nothing was missed' yet 'he hath requited me evil for good'—accurately describes the injustice. The phrase 'this fellow' (Hebrew 'zeh') conveys contempt matching Nabal's own dismissive language. David's reasoning, while justified regarding the facts, was leading toward sinful response. His oath (v. 22) would compound emotional reasoning with binding commitment to violence. This interior monologue explains why David's response exceeded Nabal's offense—perceived betrayal ignited deeper anger than mere refusal.

## Historical Context

---

David's protection of Nabal's property represented real investment of time and resources. The contrast between his generous service and Nabal's insulting refusal created legitimate grievance. However, David's emotional response was disproportionate to the offense.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

---

1. How does justified grievance sometimes lead to unjustified responses?
2. What warning does David's bitter reflection offer about nursing anger?

## Interlinear Text

---

אֲשֶׁר	כָּל	אֶת	שְׁמִי רְתִי	לֹשֶׁן קָר	אֲנִי	אָמַר	וְדָוִד
H834	H3605	H853	H8104	H8267	H389	H559	H1732
			have I kept	Surely in vain		had said	Now David
לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	מָכַל	נִפְקַד	וְדָוִד	בְּמִדְבָּר	לְזֶה	
H0	H834	H3605	H6485	H3808	H4057	H2088	
			was missed		fellow hath in the wilderness	all that this	
רָעָה	לִי	וְשָׁב	מֵאִלֶּיךָ	וְהָיָה	כִּי	וְהָיָה	
H7451	H0	H7725					
me evil		of all that pertained unto him and he hath requited				so that nothing	
						H3972	
טוֹבָה:	תִּחַת						
H2896	H8478						
for good							

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Proverbs 17:13** (Evil): Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

**Ephesians 4:26** (Parallel theme): Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

**Ephesians 4:31** (Evil): Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

**Romans 12:21** (Evil): Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 Thessalonians 5:15** (Evil): See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

**1 Peter 3:17** (Evil): For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)