

# 1 Samuel 25:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.

## Analysis

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### **And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep.**

David's awareness of Nabal's shearing indicates his intelligence network remained active. The Hebrew 'vayishma' (heard) suggests information reached him through his contacts. Sheep shearing as a time of abundance and generosity was well known; David recognized an opportunity for legitimate provision. His band's protection of Nabal's shepherds (mentioned later) gave moral grounds for requesting assistance. The wilderness location emphasizes David's marginalized status—he heard of festivity while surviving in harsh conditions. This brief verse sets in motion a confrontation between the wealthy fool and the impoverished future king.

## Historical Context

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Shearing season was widely announced as it required additional labor and marked the agricultural calendar. David's network of informants in the region kept him aware of local events. The timing of his request during this festive season was culturally appropriate.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

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1. How did David maintain awareness of opportunities while surviving in the wilderness?
2. What does timing reveal about wisdom in making requests?

## Interlinear Text

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אָתָּה שָׁמַעַת עַל־נָבָל בֶּן־רְבָנָן  
heard And David in the wilderness H3588 did shear that Nabal H853  
H8085 H1732 H4057 H1494 H5037

צָאָבָן:  
his sheep H6629

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