

# 1 Samuel 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

## Analysis

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**And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there ought missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.**

David states his case: his band protected rather than plundered Nabal's shepherds. The Hebrew 'lo hechlamnum' (we did not hurt/shame them) emphasizes non-aggression. The phrase 'neither was there ought missing' (velo nifqad lahem me'umah) indicates David's men prevented theft by others. 'All the while they were in Carmel' establishes extended protection over the entire grazing season. This was significant service—wilderness regions harbored bandits and wild animals threatening flocks. David's men could have demanded protection payments or simply taken what they wanted; instead, they provided security expecting eventual reciprocity. His request was reasonable compensation for real service rendered.

## Historical Context

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Protection of flocks from bandits and predators was valuable service in wilderness regions. David's band functioning as protective force rather than raiders demonstrated honorable conduct. Ancient Near Eastern custom expected reciprocity for such protection.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How did David's treatment of Nabal's shepherds demonstrate integrity despite his outlaw status?
2. What expectations accompany providing genuine service to others?

## Interlinear Text

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עַתָּה לֹא יְמִינְתָּךְ שְׁמָעָתִי כִּי שְׁמָעָתִי

H6258 And now I have heard H3588 that thou hast shearers H0 H6258

H8085 H1494

לֹא עַתָּה כִּי וְלֹבֶשׂ אֲשֶׁר

now thy shepherds H834 H0 H1961 H5973 H3808

H7462

לֹא נִפְאַקֵּד וְכָלְמָנִים

which were with us we hurt H3808 H6485 H0

H3637

כֹּל יְמִינְתָּךְ וְמָה

them not neither was there ought H3605 H3117

H3972

H1961

בְּכַרְמֵל:

they were in Carmel H3760

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 25:21** (Parallel theme): 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.

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