

1 Samuel 25:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

Analysis

Ask thy young men, and they will shew thee. Wherefore let the young men find favour in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

David invites verification and requests generosity. His appeal to 'ask thy young men' demonstrates confidence in his claim—Nabal's own servants would confirm the protection provided. The phrase 'good day' (yom tov) refers to the festive shearing celebration, a culturally appropriate time for generosity. David's humble request—'whatsoever cometh to thine hand'—asks for whatever Nabal considers appropriate, not demanding specific amounts. His self-designation as 'thy son' employs relationship language seeking patronage. The request is remarkable for its restraint: David, anointed king, asks a wealthy subject for table scraps, modeling humility that would later characterize his greater Son.

Historical Context

Festive occasions were expected times for generosity to those less fortunate. David's appeal to Nabal's servants for verification shows confidence in his truthful claims. The designation 'thy son' sought patron-client relationship common in ancient Near Eastern society.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does David's humble request model appropriate ways of seeking help?
2. What does 'whatsoever cometh to thine hand' teach about non-demanding requests?

Interlinear Text

שֶׁאֶל	אֶת	הַנְּעָרִים	וְיִגְדּוּ	לְךָ
Ask		thee	and they will shew	
H7592	H853	H5288	H5046	H0
תִּמְצָא	הַנְּעָרִים	חַן	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	
I pray thee whatsoever cometh	thee	favour	in thine eyes	
H4672	H5288	H2580	H5869	
כִּי	עַל	יּוֹם	טוֹב	בָּנוּ
H3588	H5921	day	in a good	for we come
	H3117	H2896	H935	H5414
תִּתֵּן	נָתַתָּה	אֶת	אֲשֶׁר	
H4994	H853	H834		
לְעַבְדֶּיךָ	וּלְבִנְךָ			
unto thy servants	and to thy son			
H5650	H1121			
לְדָוִד:				
David				
H1732				

Additional Cross-References

Esther 9:19 (Good): Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

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