

1 Samuel 26:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David cried to the people, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, Answerest thou not, Abner? Then Abner answered and said, Who art thou that criest to the king?

Analysis

David's public challenge to Abner exposes the military commander's failure to protect his king. The question 'Answerest thou not, Abner?' carries stinging rebuke, shaming the mighty warrior before the entire army. Abner's irritated response ('Who art thou that criest to the king?') reveals his discomfort at being exposed. This confrontation serves multiple purposes: demonstrating David's access to Saul, exposing the army's negligence, and establishing David's superior vigilance over Israel's true protection.

Historical Context

Abner ben Ner was Saul's cousin and the commander of Israel's armies. His failure to protect Saul during this incident would have been a severe embarrassment in the honor-shame culture of the ancient Near East. His later defection to David's cause may have roots in this humiliation.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when your failures are publicly exposed?
2. What does this exchange teach about accountability for those in positions of responsibility?

Interlinear Text

קָרָא אֶתְּ	וְדָוִד	אֶל	הָעָם	וְאֶל	אַבְנֵר	בֶּן
Who art thou that criest	And David	H413	to the people	H413	Then Abner	the son
H7121	H1732		H5971		H74	H1121
נֵר	וַיֹּאמֶר	הֵל וְאֵל	וַיַּעַן	אַבְנֵר	וַיַּעַן	אַבְנֵר
of Ner	and said	H3808	Answerest	Then Abner	Answerest	Then Abner
H5369	H559		H6030	H74	H6030	H74
וַיֹּאמֶר	מִי	אֶתְּ הַ	קָרָא אֶתְּ	אֶל	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	
and said	H4310	H859	Who art thou that criest	H413	to the king	
H559			H7121		H4428	

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