

# 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

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