

1 Samuel 26:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Abner, Art not thou a valiant man? and who is like to thee in Israel? wherefore then hast thou not kept thy lord the king? for there came one of the people in to destroy the king thy lord.

Analysis

David's rhetorical assault on Abner intensifies, sarcastically praising his reputation ('Art not thou a valiant man?') while exposing his actual failure. The revelation that 'one of the people' (David himself, though unnamed) entered to destroy the king exposes the catastrophic lapse in security. David's pointed question highlights the disconnect between Abner's reputation and his performance, a theme that resonates throughout Scripture when human pride fails to match God's standards.

Historical Context

Warriors in the ancient Near East derived significant social status from their martial reputation. David's public questioning of Abner's competence before the army would have been deeply humiliating, attacking the very foundation of his identity and honor.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. When has your reputation exceeded your actual performance in some area of life?
2. How do you respond to correction that exposes gaps between your self-image and reality?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	אַבְנֵי ר	הַלּוֹא	אִישׁ	אֵת ה
said	And David	H413	to Abner	H3808	Art not thou a valiant man	H859
H559	H1732		H74		H376	
וְיָ	כִּמּוֹךָ	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל	ל	וְלָמָּה	לֹא	
H4310	H3644	and who is like to thee in Israel		H4100	H3808	
		H3478				
שָׁמַרְתָּ	אֶל	אֲדֹנֶיךָ:	הַמֶּלֶךְ	כִּי	בָּא	
wherefore then hast thou not kept	H413	thy lord	the king	H3588	for there came	
H8104		H113	H4428		H935	
אֶחָד	הָעָם	לְהַשְׁחִית	אֶת	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֲדֹנֶיךָ:	
one	of the people	in to destroy	H853	the king	thy lord	
H259	H5971	H7843		H4428	H113	