

# 1 Samuel 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This thing is not good that thou hast done. As the LORD liveth, ye are worthy to die, because ye have not kept your master, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at his bolster.

## Analysis

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David's verdict ('ye are worthy to die') pronounces a sentence he refuses to execute, modeling the difference between declaring truth and usurping God's prerogative in judgment. The evidence of the king's spear and water cruse proves David's access and restraint beyond dispute. The threefold repetition of 'the LORD'S anointed' throughout this dialogue emphasizes David's consistent theological framework: regardless of Saul's behavior, his office demands respect that only God can revoke.

## Historical Context

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The death penalty for failing to protect the king was standard in ancient Near Eastern monarchies. By Israelite law, those charged with the king's safety who failed could face execution. David's pronouncement acknowledges this judicial reality while declining to enforce it.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you distinguish between identifying sin and executing judgment?
2. What truth have you declared while leaving the consequences to God?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹא	טוֹב	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה	אֲשֶׁר	עָשִׂיתָ	חִי
H3808	is not good	This thing	H2088	H834	that thou hast done	liveth
	H2896	H1697			H6213	H2416
יְהוָה	כִּי	בְנֵי	מָוֶת	אֶתְּ	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
As the LORD	H3588	ye are worthy	to die	H859	H834	H3808
H3068		H1121	H4194			
שָׁמַרְתָּ	עַל	אֲדֹנֶיךָ	עַל	מָשַׁח יָחִיד	יְהוָה	
because ye have not kept	H5921	your master	H5921	anointed	As the LORD	
H8104		H113		H4899	H3068	
וְעַתָּה	רְאֵה	חֶנֶּן יֵת	הֵמָּלָךְ	וְאֵת	צֶפֶת חַת	
H6258	And now see	H335	spear	H853	is and the cruse	
	H7200		H2595		H6835	
אֲשֶׁר	הַמַּיִם	מִרְאֲשֻׁתּוֹ:				
of water	H834	that was at his bolster				
H4325		H4763				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 102:20** (Parallel theme): To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

**Psalms 79:11** (Parallel theme): Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;

**Ephesians 2:3** (Parallel theme): Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

**1 Samuel 26:11** (References Lord): The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

**1 Samuel 20:31** (Kingdom): For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him unto me, for he shall surely die.

**1 Samuel 26:9** (References Lord): And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD'S anointed, and be guiltless?

**2 Samuel 12:5** (References Lord): And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die:

**2 Samuel 19:28** (Kingdom): For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?