

1 Samuel 27:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?

Analysis

David's request for 'a place in some town in the country' reveals strategic thinking within moral complexity. By leaving Gath itself, David would gain freedom from constant surveillance while creating a base for independent operations. His humble self-designation ('thy servant') and rhetorical question ('why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee?') employ the language of submission while actually seeking autonomy. This diplomatic maneuvering demonstrates David's ability to navigate foreign courts.

Historical Context

Living in the royal city would have required constant interaction with Philistine nobility and potential participation in pagan religious ceremonies. David's request for a rural assignment created distance from these compromising situations while maintaining his alliance with Achish.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you create appropriate boundaries within unavoidable compromising situations?
 2. What wisdom guides your requests when you must work within systems you cannot fully endorse?

Interlinear Text

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