

1 Samuel 28:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.

Analysis

David's ambiguous response to Achish demonstrates his diplomatic skill while revealing his impossible position. The phrase 'Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do' (Hebrew: 'lachen attah teda') can be read as either promise or veiled threat. David neither commits to fighting Israel nor refuses Achish's command. Achish's response, making David 'keeper of mine head for ever' (personal bodyguard), shows he interprets David's words as loyalty. The dramatic irony deepens David's predicament.

Historical Context

The position of royal bodyguard was among the most trusted roles in ancient courts. Achish's appointment of David to this position indicates either profound trust or, possibly, a desire to keep the powerful Israelite warrior where he could be watched.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you navigate situations where honesty would create immediate danger but deception perpetuates compromise?
2. What ambiguous situations in your life require God's intervention to resolve?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	תֵּינָךְ	אֶתְּ הָ	לְךָ	אָכִישׁ	אֶל	דָּוִד	וַיֹּאמֶר
H853	thou shalt know	H859	Surely	H397	H413	And David	said
	H3045		H3651			H1732	H559
לְךָ	דָּוִד	אֶל	אָכִישׁ	וַיֹּאמֶר	עֶבְדְּךָ	יַעֲשֶׂה הָ	אֲשֶׁר
H3651	Surely	H413	And Achish	said	H5650	what thy servant	H834
	H1732		H397	H559		H6213	
הַמִּיָּמִים:	כָּל	אֲשִׁימָךְ	לְרֹאשׁ י	שִׁמְךָ			
for ever	H3605	Therefore will I make	of mine head	thee keeper			
H3117		H7760	H7218	H8104			

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