

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

א תִּתְּדַע אֲתָּה לְכָה אַכִּישׁ אֶל־יְהוּדָה וְאַמְרָה
said And David H413 And Achish Surely thou shalt know H853
H559 H1732 H397 H3651 H859 H3045

לְכָה אַמְרָה עָבָדְךָ תִּשְׁאַל אֲכִישׁ אֶל־יְהוּדָה וְאַשְׁר
H834 can do what thy servant said And Achish And David Surely
H6213 H5650 H559 H413 H1732 H3651

בְּתִמְיָם כֵּל אֲשִׁימָה לְרַאשׁ יְהוּדָה שְׁמָךְ
thee keeper of mine head Therefore will I make for ever
H8104 H7218 H7760 H3605 H3117

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