

1 Samuel 28:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore, I pray thee, hearken thou also unto the voice of thine handmaid, and let me set a morsel of bread before thee; and eat, that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way.

Analysis

The woman's practical insistence that Saul eat before departing reveals her understanding of physical necessity amid spiritual devastation. Her language, 'let me set a morsel of bread before thee,' uses the vocabulary of hospitality found throughout patriarchal narratives. The reasoning 'that thou mayest have strength, when thou goest on thy way' acknowledges Saul must face what cannot be avoided. Even condemned men must function. This passage shows human kindness persisting even in circumstances of divine judgment.

Historical Context

Hospitality obligations were sacred in ancient Near Eastern culture. The woman's offer of food, despite the danger Saul represented and the shocking events just witnessed, reflects deeply ingrained cultural values of caring for guests.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do we care for practical needs of those facing spiritual devastation?
2. What role does basic human kindness play in the darkest moments of life?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה הִ

H6258

Now therefore I pray thee hearken

שְׁמַע

H8085

גַּם נִ אָ

H4994

H1571

אַתָּה

H859

בְּكָר וְלִ

thou also unto the voice

H6963

שְׁפָטָת בָּ

of thine handmaid

H8198

וְאַשְׁמָה

and let me set

H7760

לִפְנֵי יְהָ

before

H6440

פְּתַת לִפְנֵי יְהָ

a morsel

H6595

לְקַם

of bread

H3899

בְּתֵךְ וְאַכְלֵל

thee and eat

H398

בְּךָ

H1961

H0

that thou mayest have strength

H3581

תַּל נִכְרֵי

H3588 H1980

בְּתֵךְ:

on thy way

H1870

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