

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 ה	שְׁמַע	גַּם	אֲנִי	אֶתְּה
H6258	Now therefore I pray thee hearken	H4994	H1571	H859
	H8085			
בְּקוֹל	שִׁפְחֹתֶיךָ	וְאֶשׁ מָה	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	פֶּת
thou also unto the voice	of thine handmaid	and let me set	before	a morsel
H6963	H8198	H7760	H6440	H6595
לֶחֶם	וְאַתָּה וְ	יְיָ	כִּי	תִּלְךָ
of bread	thee and eat	H1961	H0	that thou mayest have strength
H3899	H398		H3581	H3588 H1980
בְּדֶרֶךְ:				
on thy way				
H1870				