

1 Samuel 29:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king?

Analysis

David's protest, 'But what have I done?', maintains his deceptive persona while potentially revealing genuine frustration at the ambiguous resolution. His question could be honest indignation at unjust suspicion or strategic performance maintaining his cover with Achish. The ambiguous phrase 'the enemies of my lord the king' could refer to either Achish's enemies (Israel) or Saul's enemies (the Philistines), preserving David's double identity. This final act of diplomatic theater protects David's position regardless of battle outcomes.

Historical Context

David's protest maintained his cover and preserved his honor in Achish's eyes. Whether sincere or strategic (or both), it ensured his Philistine relationships remained intact for potential future need.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you navigate situations where your true feelings must remain hidden?
2. What does David's response suggest about the complexity of operating in compromised positions?

Interlinear Text

וְמִה עָשָׂה יְהִי אֶתְּנָה
H4100 But what have I done H6213
H413 And David H1732
H559 said H397 unto Achish H3588
H4100 said H1732 unto Achish H3588

פָּנָא אָשָׁר בַּעֲדָךְ פָּנָא אָתָּה
H1961 so long as H834
H4672 and what hast thou found H5650 in thy servant H3117

אָבֹא לֹא כִּי פָּנָא עַד לְפָנָי יְהִי
H935 that I may not go H6440 I have been with thee H5704 so long as H3117
H2088 H3588 H3808 H1961

פָּנָלָה אֶדְנִי בְּאֵיבִי וְנַלְפֵט מִתִּי
H4428 the king H113 of my lord H341 against the enemies H3898
H113 of my lord H341 against the enemies H3898

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:13 (Kingdom): And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
