

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	דָּוִד	אֶל	אֶחֱיִשׁ	כִּי	מָה	עָשׂוּ יָדַי	וַיֵּמָה
said	And David	H413	unto Achish	H3588	H4100	But what have I done	H4100
H559	H1732		H397			H6213	
מָצָא אֶת־	בְּעַבְדְּךָ	הֵי אִם	אֲשֶׁר	רַק	יָדַי		
and what hast thou found	in thy servant	so long as	H834		H1961		
H4672	H5650	H3117					
לִפְנֵי יְיָ	עַד	הֵי אִם	הִנֵּה	כִּי	לֹא	אָבוֹא	
I have been with thee	H5704	so long as	H2088	H3588	H3808	that I may not go	
H6440		H3117				H935	
וְנִלְחַם מִתִּי	בְּאֹיְבֵי יְיָ	אֲדֹנָי	הַמֶּלֶךְ:				
fight	against the enemies	of my lord	the king				
H3898	H341	H113	H4428				

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.