

# 1 Samuel 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David said unto him, To whom belongest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

## Analysis

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The interrogation reveals essential intelligence: the man was Egyptian, servant to an Amalekite, abandoned when ill. His nationality connects to Israel's historic experience of Egyptian bondage, creating subtle ironic resonance. The master's cruelty in abandoning him ('my master left me') mirrors Pharaoh's cruel treatment of Israel's sick and weak. This discarded servant holds the key to David's rescue mission.

## Historical Context

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Slaves in the ancient world often came from defeated populations or were purchased in markets. An Egyptian serving an Amalekite suggests the complexity of ancient slave trade networks that moved people across ethnic and national boundaries.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do the marginalized sometimes possess crucial knowledge the powerful lack?
2. What connections exist between how masters treat servants and how God treats masters?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	לֹא	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר	וַיֹּאמֶר
<b>said</b>	H0	<b>And David</b>	H4310	H859	H335	H2088	H859
H559		H1732					<b>said</b>
							H559
וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ
<b>I am a young man</b>	<b>of Egypt</b>	H595	<b>servant</b>	<b>to an Amalekite</b>	H6003		
H5288	H4713		H5650	H376			
וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ	וְאֵלֶּיךָ
<b>left</b>	<b>and my master</b>	H3588	<b>agone I fell sick</b>	<b>days</b>	<b>me because three</b>		
H5800	H113		H2470	H3117	H7969		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 12:10** (Parallel theme): A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

**James 2:13** (Parallel theme): For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.