

1 Samuel 30:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.

Analysis

David's return to the two hundred who stayed at Besor receives initial hostility from a portion of his forces. Yet David 'saluted them' (Hebrew: 'wayyish'al lahem leshalom'), asking about their welfare with genuine concern. His greeting precedes any discussion of spoil distribution, establishing that relationships matter more than material concerns. David's character shows in how he treats those who could not complete the mission.

Historical Context

The formal greeting of peace (shalom) was standard social protocol but significant here given the tension that would emerge over spoil distribution. David's initiative in greeting the exhausted men set a tone of inclusion.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do you greet those who could not participate in success?
2. What does prioritizing relationships over rewards reveal about leadership character?

Interlinear Text

אָשָׁר פָּאָנֵשׁ יָמִם מִאַת יָמִין
And David to the two hundred

came And David H413 to the two hundred H376 H834

H935 H1732 H3967

אָמַר כַּתָּא פְּגַר וְ
which were so faint

And David H1732

H1980 H310 H6296

צָאוּ בְּבָשָׂר בְּבָנֵי כָּל
whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor and they went forth

H3427 H5158 H1308 H3318

וְשָׁאַת אֶלְקָב אֶת
and to meet And David and to meet the people

came near H5066

H7125 H1732 H7125 H5971 H834 H854

לְשָׁלֹום: לְבָקָר תְּשַׁאֲלָה
And David the people he saluted

H1732 H853 H5971 H7592 H0 H7965

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:1 (Parallel theme): Let brotherly love continue.

1 Samuel 30:10 (References David): But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.

Judges 8:15 (Parallel theme): And he came unto the men of Succoth, and said, Behold Zebah and Zalmunna, with whom ye did upbraid me, saying, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thy men that are weary?

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