

# 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

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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

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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

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

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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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

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וַיָּבֹא	דָּוִד	אֶל	מֵאתַיִם	הָאֲנָשִׁים	אֲשֶׁר
came	And David		to the two hundred		
H935	H1732	H413	H3967	H376	H834
פָּגַר וְ	אֲחֵרֵי	מֵלְכָתָן	דָּוִד		
which were so faint			And David		
H6296		H1980	H1732		
	וַיַּשִּׁיבֵם	בְּנֵי הַ	הַבֶּשֶׁר	וַיֵּצְאוּ	
whom they had made also to abide		at the brook	Besor	and they went forth	
	H3427	H5158	H1308	H3318	
וַיִּלְקֹךְ	דָּוִד	וַיִּלְקֹךְ	הָעָם	אֲשֶׁר	אֶת־וַיָּבֹא
and to meet	And David	and to meet	the people		came near
H7125	H1732	H7125	H5971	H834	H854
					H5066
דָּוִד	אֶת־	הָעָם	וַיִּשָּׂאֵל	לָהֶם	לְשָׁלוֹם:
And David		the people	he saluted		
H1732	H853	H5971	H7592	H0	H7965

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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