

# 1 Samuel 30:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

## Analysis

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The 'wicked men and men of Belial' (Hebrew: 'ish-ra' uveli-ya'al') among David's forces reveal the moral diversity within his band. Their refusal to share spoil with those who stayed behind reflects a meritocratic principle: only those who fought deserve reward. The grudging allowance that each man may take 'his wife and his children' without additional spoil treats the exhausted men as charity cases. This attitude contradicts the unity David's leadership requires.

## Historical Context

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The designation 'sons of Belial' (literally 'worthlessness') appears throughout Scripture for those who reject proper moral standards. These troublemakers existed even among David's followers, requiring his corrective leadership.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you handle divisive voices within your community?
2. What principles should govern distribution of rewards when contributions vary?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעַן	כָּל	אִישׁ	כָּע	וּבְלִי עַל	מִהָאָנָשִׁים	
Then answered		men	all the wicked	and men of Belial	of those	
H6030	H3605	H376	H7451	H1100	H582	
אֲשֶׁר	וַיֵּלְכוּ:	עִם	דָּוִד	וַיֹּאמֶר ו	אֲשֶׁר	לֹא
H834	Because they went	H5973	with David	and said	H3282	H834
	H1980		H1732	H559		H3808
וַיֵּלְכוּ:	לֹא	עִמָּנוּ	נָתַתְּ	לָהֶם		
Because they went		H5973	H3808	not with us we will not give	H0	
H1980				H5414		
מִהַשָּׁל ל	אֲשֶׁר	הָצַלְנוּ	כִּי	אִישׁ	אֶת	
them ought of the spoil	H834	that we have recovered	H3588	H518	men	H853
H7998		H5337			H376	
אִשְׁתּוֹ	וְאֶת	בְּנֵי יוֹ	וַיִּנְהֲגוּ	וַיֵּלְכוּ:		
his wife	H853	and his children	that they may lead them away	Because they went		
H802		H1121	H5090	H1980		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 7:12** (Parallel theme): Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.

**Deuteronomy 13:13** (Parallel theme): Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

