

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

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

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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

Interlinear Text

Then answered	H3605	men	all the wicked	and men of Belial	מִבָּנֵשִׁים	of those
H6030	H376	H7451	H1100	H582		
Because they went	H1980	with David	and said	H3282	H834	H3808
H834	H5973	H1732	H559	H1980	H5414	H0
Because they went	H1980	not with us we will not give				
them ought of the spoil	H7998	that we have recovered	H3588	H518	men	H853
his wife	H853	and his children	H5337	H376		
H802	H1121	that they may lead them away	H5090			
		Because they went				
		H1980				

Additional Cross-References

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Deuteronomy 13:13 (Parallel theme): Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

