

# 1 Samuel 31:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard of that which the Philistines had done to Saul;

## Analysis

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The transition to Jabesh-gilead's inhabitants hearing the news recalls Saul's first act as king: rescuing them from Nahash the Ammonite (chapter 11). Their response to Saul's dishonor repays his earlier deliverance with later loyalty. The Hebrew 'wayyishme'u' (they heard) indicates news traveled across the Jordan. Gratitude remembered across decades motivates their risky intervention. Their courage contrasts with others who fled.

## Historical Context

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Jabesh-gilead's rescue by Saul forty years earlier created a debt of honor the city now repays. The transjordan location meant they had to cross the Jordan and penetrate Philistine-held territory to reach Beth-shan.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does gratitude motivate action even at personal risk?
2. What debts of honor do you owe to those who helped you in the past?

## Interlinear Text

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אָתָּה גָּלַע דָּבָר יְשָׁבֵב וְיִשְׁמַע אֶל-יְהוָה

heard

H413

And when the inhabitants

of Jabeshgilead

אָתָּה גָּלַע דָּבָר יְשָׁבֵב וְיִשְׁמַע אֶל-יְהוָה

H1568

H853

לְשָׁאול:

אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה

had done

of that which the Philistines

לְשָׁאול:

to Saul

H834

H6213

H6430

H7586

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