

# Deuteronomy 20:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not yet eaten of it? let him also go and return unto his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man eat of it.

## Analysis

**And what man is he that hath planted a vineyard, and hath not yet eaten of it?** (מִי־הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר־נָטַע כֶּרֶם)—The third warfare exemption addresses nata (planted) a vineyard but not yet enjoyed its fruit. Under Leviticus 19:23-25, fruit was forbidden for three years, dedicated to God in year four, and available to the owner in year five. To die before enjoying God's blessing on one's labor would be tragic.

This exemption reveals God's compassion for human joy and completion. Holy war required wholehearted focus—a soldier preoccupied with unfinished business would fight halfheartedly. The principle: God wants fully committed warriors, not distracted conscripts forced into service while longing for home.

## Historical Context

These exemptions appear in the context of holy war legislation (Deuteronomy 20:1-9), delivered by Moses on the plains of Moab before entering Canaan. Unlike ancient Near Eastern armies that conscripted brutally, Israel's army excused those with legitimate life concerns, trusting God for victory rather than sheer numbers.

## Related Passages

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

## Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

### Study Questions

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1. What unfinished desires or incomplete projects might distract you from wholehearted service to God's present calling?
2. How does God's provision of these exemptions challenge modern assumptions about religious duty overriding all personal circumstances?

### Interlinear Text

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וְיָמִי H4310	וְאִישׁ H376	אֲשֶׁר H834	נָטַע H5193	כֶּרֶם H3754	וְלֵא H3808
	And what man		is he that hath planted	a vineyard	
	וְלֹא H2490	יָלַךְ H1980	וַיָּשׁוּב H7725	לְבֵיתוֹ H1004	פֶּן H6435
	and hath not yet eaten		and return	unto his house	lest he die
בַּמִּלְחָמָה H4421	וְאִישׁ H376	אֲחֵר H312	וְלֹא H2490	יָלַךְ H2490	
in the battle	And what man	and another	and hath not yet eaten		