

# Judges 18:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

## Analysis

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**And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.** The phrase "turned thitherward" (vayasuru shamah, וַיָּסֻרוּ שָׁמָּה) indicates deliberate diversion from their route—they turned aside specifically to approach the Levite. "Came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah" clarifies that the Levite lived in Micah's household as his hired priest. The greeting "saluted him" (vayish'alu-lo leshalom, וַיִּשְׁאַלּוּ-לוֹ לְשָׁלוֹם, literally "asked him for peace/well-being") appears courteous but was actually tactical—engaging him in conversation while others stole the religious objects (verses 17-18).

This verse reveals calculated deception. The Danites appeared friendly, greeting the Levite respectfully, while planning to rob his employer and recruit him for their own purposes. From a Reformed perspective, this illustrates how sin often employs deception and manipulation. The Danites didn't violently attack; they used social conventions (greetings, religious inquiry) to mask theft and coercion. This warns that evil doesn't always appear obviously wicked—it often wears respectable, even religious, masks.

## Historical Context

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The social customs of greeting and hospitality in ancient Israel made the Danites' approach seem appropriate and non-threatening. Asking after someone's shalom

(peace/well-being) was standard courtesy (Genesis 43:27, 1 Samuel 25:5). The Levite, having previously blessed their mission (verse 6), likely welcomed these familiar faces. He had no reason to suspect their true intentions. This abuse of hospitality customs illustrates the moral chaos of the judges period, where even social bonds and religious roles provided no protection against exploitation.

## Related Passages

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

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

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does sin sometimes disguise itself with social pleasantries and religious vocabulary?
2. What does this passage teach about the importance of discernment—not judging merely by outward appearances or courteous words?
3. In what ways might you be using religious or social conventions to mask motivations or actions that don't honor God?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּסּוּרוּ	שָׁמָּה	וַיָּבֹאוּ	אֵל	בֵּית
And they turned	H8033	thitherward and came	H413	even unto the house
H5493		H935		H1004

הַנָּעַר	הַלֵּוִי	בֵּית	מִיכָה	וַיִּשְׁאַלְוּ	לֹא
of the young man	the Levite	even unto the house	of Micah	and saluted	H0
H5288	H3881	H1004	H4318	H7592	

לְשָׁלוֹם:

H7965

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 43:27** (Parallel theme): And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

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