

1 Samuel 25.6-17 chiasm

[invitation: peace]

A (v. 6): Thus you shall salute him: **'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house,** and peace be to all that you have.

B (vv. 7-8): I hear that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us, and **we did them no harm**, and **they missed nothing**, all the time they were in Carmel. **Ask your young men, and they will tell you.** Therefore let my young men find favor in your sight; for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David."

[Nabal turns against David]

C (vv. 9-11) When **David's young men** came, they **said all this to Nabal** in the name of David; and then they waited. But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are **many servants today who are breaking away from their masters.** Shall I take my bread and my water and the meat that I have butchered for my shearers, and give it to men who come from I do not know where?"

D (v. 12): So David's young men turned away, and came back and told him all this.

[David turns against Nabal]

C¹ (v. 13-14):" David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every one of them strapped on his sword; David also strapped on his sword; and about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage. But **one of the young men told Abigail**, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and **he shouted insults at them.**

B¹ (vv. 15-16): Yet the men were very good to us, and **we suffered no harm**, and **we never missed anything** when we were in the fields, as long as we were with them; they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

[Outcome: evil]

A¹ (v. 17): Now therefore know this and consider what you should do; for **evil has been decided against our master and against all his house;** he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him."