

1 Samuel 15:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

Analysis

Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

Saul's second 'I have sinned' immediately follows request for honor: 'honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people.' This confession is more concerned with public respect than divine relationship. He wants Samuel to worship with him not for genuine reconciliation but for political appearance. The Hebrew *kabed* ('honour') prioritizes human reputation. Saul's confession aims at damage control, not repentance. He accepts the verdict's reality but wants to minimize its public impact.

Historical Context

Honor (*kavod*) in ancient Near Eastern culture was paramount for maintaining authority. Loss of face before elders could destabilize royal power. Saul's request reveals his priorities: maintaining political position matters more than spiritual restoration.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does concern for reputation sometimes masquerade as repentance?
2. What is the difference between confession aimed at restoration and confession aimed at damage control?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	חָטָא אֲתִי	עַתָּה	כְּבֹדִי	וְ	אֵלֹהִים
Then he said	I have sinned		yet honour		
H559	H2398	H6258	H3513	H4994	H5048
אֲנִי	אֲנִי	אֲנִי	אֲנִי	אֲנִי	אֲנִי
me now I pray thee before the elders	of my people				and before Israel
H2205	H5971			H5048	H3478
וְשׁוּב	עִמָּי	וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתִי	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	
and turn again		with me that I may worship	the LORD	thy God	
H7725	H5973	H7812	H3068	H430	

Additional Cross-References

John 12:43 (Worship): For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

John 5:44 (References God): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Isaiah 29:13 (References Lord): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have

removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

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