

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

Then he said	I have sinned	H559	H2398	עָמַד הָעֵדָה עַל אַתִּי	H6258	פְּבַד נִי	H3513	יְאַמְּרֵה	H4994	בְּנֵדֶת אָמָר	H5048
me now I pray thee before the elders	of my people	H2205		יְהִי עַמִּי		עַמְּךָ	H5971	לְשָׁבָא לְ	H5048	and before Israel	H3478
and turn again	with me that I may worship	H7725	H5973	וְשָׁבָא עַמְּךָ	H7812	וְהַשְׁתַּפְתִּי יְהִי		לְיְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים	H3068	thy God	H430
								the LORD			

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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