Royal Portraits: King Saul

Wasted Potential

By Kevin Kusunoki, November 08, 2026

Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over His people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them.’”
1 Samuel 15:1-3 NIV

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”
1 Samuel 15:13-14 NIV

“But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.” But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offering and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king.”
1 Samuel 15:20-23 NIV

Two ways we know we are controlled by the voice of the world:

1. We muddy the commands of God .
2. We will have grand intentions .

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. In what areas in your life do you find yourself listening to the world more than listening to God?
2. Are there commands of God that you tend to make more ambiguous than they are?