

# Bleating Sheep And Lowing Oxen

1 Sam. 15:1-23

## Introduction:

- A. God sent King Saul to pay a 300 year plus debt. (v. 2, Ex. 17:8-16)
- B. King Saul did not completely get the job done.
  - 1. He was to spare neither man nor animal. (v. 3).
  - 2. He spared Agag, a very wicked king. (cf. v. 33).
  - 3. He spared best of the flocks. (v. 9).
  - 4. He returns to Samuel.
    - a. Claims to have obeyed. (v. 13).
    - b. Asked about the bleating of sheep and lowing of oxen. (v. 14).
  - 5. *He made three **blunders** that are all too common today.*

## Discussion:

### I. He Disobeyed God's Plain Command. (v.3)

- A. He was arrogant, rebellious and stubborn. (vv. 17,23; cf. 1 Sam. 9:21).
- B. He considered it enough to partially obey. (v. 9).
  - 1. Such is the same as no obedience. (Jas. 2:9).
  - 2. Such demonstrates self-will rather than submission. (Ill. Son left of set up farm).

### II. He Denied His Disobedience. (v. 13, 20)

- A. He could not get past God by denying wrongdoing.
  - 1. God knew Saul's disobedience. (v. 11)
  - 2. The fruits of his disobedience told on him. (v. 14).
  - 3. Sin will not go away by denying it. (cf. 1 John 1:8-10).
- B. He could not erase rebellion with token obedience.

### III. He Excused His Disobedience.

- A. By finding a way to justify his actions. (v. 21).
  - 1. Like child “just licking lips”, when stuck tongue out at mother.
  - 2. Easy to think disobedience insignificant compared to potential benefits.
  - 3. Easy to think that the end justifies the means. (Rom. 3:8).
- B. By passing the buck on to others.
  - 1. He blamed the people. (vv. 15,21).
    - a. People have been blaming sins on others from Adam until now.
    - b. People need to understand the principle of Ezekiel 18:1-3,20.
  - 2. He only accepted responsibility for good. (vv. 15,20,21).
    - a. Like many in church — **we** do wonders, **they** cause problems.
    - b. Failed to recognize that both good and evil was joint action.

## Conclusion:

- A. Saul finally admits his problem. (v. 24)
  - 1. If guilty of sin, don't deny it, don't excuse it, don't blame others.
  - 2. If guilty of sin, do like Saul finally did — confess it.
- B. Saul still paid dearly for his sin. (vv. 27-35)