

King Saul's Bleating Sheep and Lowing Oxen

1 Sam. 15:12-14

Introduction:

- A. God sent Saul to “utterly destroy” the Amalekite nation (v.2, 3).
 - 1. Because they had ambushed Israel on the way to Canaan (cf. Ex. 17:8-14)
 - 2. Saul was now God’s executioner of vengeance upon that nation.
 - 3. Saul is now faced with an embarrassing question (v. 14)
- B. The bleating and lowing had several meanings:

Discussion:

I. It Meant That Saul had Disobeyed God.

- A. As one apparently corrupted by power and position.
 - 1. Once a humble and submissive before God (v. 17, cf. 9:21).
 - 2. Became proud, rebellious, and stubborn (vs. 12, 22-23).
- B. As one content with partial obedience. (v. 9)
 - 1. Confused partial obedience for obedience (v. 20; cf. Jas 2:9)
 - 2. Such shows self-will (cf. Son's building farm for father)

II. It Meant That Saul's Disobedience Was Known.

- A. His best efforts could not keep his sin secret.
 - 1. Boldly proclaimed his obedience (v. 13, 20).
 - 2. But God and Samuel knew better (vs. 11-14)
- B. Our best efforts cannot keep our sins secret forever.
 - 1. Nothing hidden from God’s eyes. (Heb. 4:12,13).
 - 2. Secrets of men will be judged. (Rom. 2:16)

III. It Meant That Saul must Deal with His Disobedience.

- A. At first, he tried to deal with it in the wrong way.
 - 1. By saying it was for a good cause — sacrifice to God (v. 15, 21).
 - 2. By passing the buck on to the people (vs. 15,20,21 cf. Adam to Eve)
- B. At last, he dealt with in the right way.
 - 1. He accepted full responsibility and confessed (v. 24; cf. 1 John 1:9).
 - 2. He still had to face the temporal consequences of his sin (v. 26).

Conclusion:

- A. Think you can keep sin secret? (Num. 32:23).
- B. Guilty of sin? Don't Deny! Don't Excuse! Don't blame others! Confess!
- C. No longer practicing a sin? Still must repent of it (cf. 2 Cor. 12:21).