

ARE YOUR SHEEP BLEATING?!
("bleating" = crying out)

TEXT: 1 Samuel 15:1-14

THESIS: To show that partial obedience is complete disobedience.

INTRO.: A. In this passage there are 3 principal personalities involved: **God** - Commander in Chief, **Saul** – The People's Chosen Commander & King, and **Samuel** – the Lord's Priest/Prophet.

B. Samuel is on a mission to anoint Saul as King. **v.1**

I. GOD'S COMMAND: vv.1-3

A. The Words of the Lord: "*Hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the Lord..*" **v.1**

1. It is the words that make up the Word! **Luke 4:4 "every word..."**
2. "**Thus saith the LORD of hosts...**" **v.2**

B. The Word is very specific: "*smite...utterly destroy...spare not...man and woman, infant, and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass!*" **v.3**

QUES.: Why such harsh judgment?! Is God that vengeful?! Historically the Amalekites were Israel's first enemy upon leaving Egypt. They wanted to annihilate Israel and there is evidence that Amalek was a giant who had polluted the race and would do so to Israel. *God not only sees the present, but the future as well.*

C. God Speaks Again: vv.10,11a

II. KING SAUL'S COMPROMISE: vv.4-9

A. Incomplete Obedience:

1. "**Saul smote...**" Obedience?
2. "**But Saul and the people** (under Saul) **spared Agag, and...**" **v.8,9**

B. Partial Submission:

1. He substituted general obedience for explicit and complete obedience!

ILLUS.: Before your surgery is it O.K. for the surgeon to come directly from the bar to the O.R. and not bother to change his clothes, etc.? To use leftover non sterile equipment? To not bother to wash his hands?

2. God wants to destroy all our future enemies and slay all the things that are His and our enemies.
 - a. God's commands are for our benefit NOW and in our FUTURE!
 - b. "**But Saul...spared Agag, and the best of the sheep...**" etc. **v.9**

NOTE: Perhaps we, like Saul think that we are smarter than the Lord Who sees not just the present, but the future AS the present!

c. "**...to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God...**" **V.15**

- 1) They belonged to the Lord already...they were His creation.
- 2) He knows what is best for His people & He seed the end as well as the present.

C. Alibis Instead of Obedience: ("The people made me do it!") "**But the people...**" **v.21**

1. But God made the Saul the King (also at the people's request!).
2. The people should have feared the Lord and the King and obeyed both.

III. SAMUEL'S CONDEMNATION: V.22

A. His Probing Question: v.22,23a

1. Samuel was deeply concerned over the entire situation. **V. 11b "cried...all night"**
2. About reproach against the Lord, Saul's disobedience.

QUES.: When you sin how concerned are you about God's reputation? Your testimony? **Are YOUR SHEEP BLEATING? V.14** Do YOU hear them? Do others hear them?

B. His Final Judgments: v.23b and vv.32,33

1. He rebukes Saul and removes him from being King. V.28
2. He does what Saul should have done and kills Agag the King of the Amalekites. V.33

CONCL.: **The Commander in Chief gave the orders: The King *almost* followed the orders (*incomplete obedience*) and the Lord's chosen Prophet/Priest Samuel removed Saul from being King due to his failure to obey the orders of the Commander in Chief – *the Lord...***

Saul's bleating sheep : *lying, hypocrisy, disobedience, pride, selfishness, rebellion, stubbornness, etc.*

What are your bleating sheep? *Unforgiveness, bitter spirit, hypocrisy, envy, wicked thoughts and desires, disobedience?*

**ARE YOUR SHEEP BLEATING?
DO YOU HEAR THEM?
DOES THE LORD HEAR THEM?
DO OTHERS HEAR THEM?**