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.
      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)