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).