

# Bleating Sheep and Lowing Oxen

1 Samuel 15

- The command was clear
  - Verse 1-3
  - Not deep, confusing, contradictory
  - Let us not say...
    - “That’s open for interpretation”
    - “You have your interpretation, and I have mine”
    - “We see it differently”
    - “I know that’s what it says, but that’s not what it means”
  - Ephesians 5:15-18
  - 1 Corinthians 1:10; 4:6
  - God’s will to us is clear, and He expects us to understand
  - Let us say
    - “I *can* understand God’s will for me”
    - “I *will* study to know God’s will for me so I can do it”

- ✓ The command was clear
- **Saul and the people were unwilling**
  - Verse 9
  - Within their power and their choice
  - Isaiah 1:18-20
  - Revelation 22:17
  - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
  - May we not say
    - “I’m not able to change”
    - “It’s too difficult”
    - “God doesn’t really expect me to do that”
  - Let us say
    - “God does not command something I cannot do”
    - “I am ready and willing”
    - “I will be of good courage and do it”

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- **Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone**
  - Verse 12, 17
    - Even verse 30, after confession
  - 1 Samuel 9:21
  - Micah 6:8
  - Habakkuk 2:4
  - Proverbs 6:17 vs. Matthew 5:3
  - 1 Peter 5:5-6; James 4:6-7
  - *Must submit to God; put self under the rightful ruler*

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- **Saul lied**
  - Verse 13, 20
  - Verse 15, 9
  - Lied to self, to Samuel, to God
  - Verse 19 – “you did not obey”
  - It is possible to do wrong and yet believe in your own heart that you have done right
    - Proverbs 16:2
  - The test
    - 1 John 2:3-4
    - It is objective: Have you done the commandment?

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- ✓ Saul lied
- **Saul shifted responsibility**
  - Verse 15, 21
  - Saul's responsibility based on his authority
    - Verse 3
  - Exodus 32:1-5; 22-24
  - Matthew 27:24
  - Galatians 6:5

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- ✓ Saul lied
- **Saul shifted responsibility**
  - Let us not say
    - “It was not my fault”
    - “Well he didn’t do the right thing either”
    - “If he had not done what he did, then I would not have...”
    - “Those people drove me away from the church”
  - Ezekiel 18:2-3
  - Let us say
    - “I have sinned against God”
    - “I have no excuse”

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- ✓ Saul lied
- ✓ Saul shifted responsibility
- **Saul feared man instead of God, and as a result he obeyed man, not God**
  - Verse 24
  - Psalm 118:6
  - Luke 12:4-5
  - Men can intimidate and shame, but...
    - Acts 5:29...40
  - Let us not shun to declare the whole counsel of God
    - Acts 20:26-27



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- ✓ Saul feared man instead of God, and as a result he obeyed man, not God
- **Saul disobeyed God**
  - Verses 1-3, 9
  - Described in verses 19, 23-25
    - Evil
    - Rebellion
    - Stubbornness
    - Rejecting the word of the Lord
  - No inquisition needed as to his intentions and reasons to determine guilt or innocence

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- ✓ Saul shifted responsibility
- ✓ Saul feared man instead of God, and as a result he obeyed man, not God
- **Saul disobeyed God**
  - Let us not say
    - “I have my reasons”
    - “My intentions were good”
    - “I displayed a spirit of obedience”
    - “We should be concerned with the spirit of the law, not the letter”
    - “We need to be concerned with the majors, not the minors”
  - Let us say
    - “All of what God says, that I will do”

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- ✓ Saul lied
- ✓ Saul shifted responsibility
- ✓ Saul feared man instead of God, and as a result he obeyed man, not God
- ✓ Saul disobeyed God

- **They intended to worship according to their own will**

- Verses 21-22
- Deuteronomy 4:2
- Matthew 15:7-9
- “Will worship” – man’s own, self-imposed or self-made religion
  - Colossians 2:20-23

- ✓ The command was clear
- ✓ Saul and the people were unwilling
- ✓ Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
- ✓ Saul lied
- ✓ Saul shifted responsibility
- ✓ Saul feared man instead of God, and as a result he obeyed man, not God
- ✓ Saul disobeyed God
- **They intended to worship according to their own will**
  - Let us not say
    - “But the music sounds good”
    - “It makes me feel more spiritual”
    - “We are growing this way”
  - Let us say and do
    - “Worship is unto God; it’s focus is not my feelings”
    - “I am concerned with how God wants me to worship”

# 1 Samuel 15

- God has great delight in obedience
  - Verse 22
  - Emphasizing obedience
    - John 6:27
    - Jeremiah 7:22-23
    - Psalm 51:16-17
  - The pleasing response to the voice of God
    - “Obeying the voice of the Lord”
    - 1 Samuel 3:10
  - Sacrifice without obedience is unacceptable
  - Obedience includes sacrifice

# 1 Samuel 15

- How serious is disobedience?
  - Verses 22-23
  - Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft
    - Exodus 22:18
    - Deuteronomy 18:10-12
  - Stubbornness is as...
    - Lawlessness
    - Idolatry
  - Disobedience is a rejection of the word of the Lord

# The Sound of Bleating Sheep and Lowing Oxen

- These sounds remind us that
  - God's command to Saul was clear,
    - But Saul and the people were unwilling
  - Saul was filled with pride; humility was gone
  - Saul lied
  - Saul shifted responsibility
  - Saul feared and obeyed man, not God
  - Saul disobeyed God
  - The people intended to worship according to their own will

# The Sound of Bleating Sheep and Lowing Oxen

- These sounds remind us that
  - God's commands to us are clear
    - But sometimes we are unwilling
  - We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Pride is a well-spring of disobedience
  - Let us not find ourselves lying to self and to God
  - When we sin, we must take responsibility
  - Let us fear and obey God, not man
  - Obedience is not doing what God says because I agree with it. Obedience is doing all of what God said.
  - Acceptable worship cannot be according to my will, but God's