

## THIS BLEATING OF THE SHEEP IN MY EARS

### 1 SAMUEL CHAPTER FIFTEEN

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~ King Saul has stolen the spotlight in our previous several reports. We have demonstrated in many ways, and it is irrefutable at this point in his account, that Saul was Satan's man. Saul is one of the truly dark characters in Scripture; and there are others. When God turns the light on our human nature, there aren't many heroes in the Bible. That's because the Bible is about the total depravity of mankind. Without that understanding, the Bible doesn't even make sense. No, friends, human nature is frightful. That's what the Bible addresses; and Saul is a prime example. The heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things. That is the premise for our thesis.

I do not believe Saul was ever genuinely God's man, and I know he never obeyed the Lord. It would be impossible to determine from the account that Saul loved God. From our early studies, he revealed himself as a hypocrite putting up a front, pretending to be God's man; but it was all deception. In our last report, and in this chapter, we will be examining the glaring rebellion Saul perpetrated against God in the matter of Agag, king of the Amalekites. Saul is even willing to attempt a cover up of his sin in this section of Scripture. Everything about Saul will continue to become darker and more sinister until the moment of, and even including his death....

***1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.***

***2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.***

***3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.***

~ Many beginning students of Scripture find this passage extreme. Well, God won't be making any apologies for this command. If you have noticed the account of Amalek as we progressed through our safari so far, you know the Amalekites were totally opposed to God. They were in complete rebellion against Him, and He said He would judge them according to their oppression of Israel in the wilderness so long ago. God ordered Saul to exterminate these people at this time because they were creating chaos and havoc in Israel. Saul isn't going to obey that order from God. Later, in Esther, we discover an Amalekite descendant named Haman. Well, Haman made an attempt to exterminate the entire Hebrew people. He would have succeeded if God had not intervened, too. That episode would never have happened if Saul had obeyed the Lord at this time.

See, friends, when you actually study the Bible and get the proper perspective from God, then you'll see His immediate action is just and correct – every time. Candidly, you and I have no privilege of knowing the mind of God. If we did, we could make His decisions. Until His ways are our ways, and until His thoughts are our thoughts, we are simply in no position to pass judgment on God. Period. What He does is right, and if you believe He is not right, then you are wrong, you may be absolutely sure. You may not like that statement, my beloved; but, God says, "TOO BAD!" ~

***4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.***

***5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.***

***6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.***

***7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.***

***8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.***

***9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.***

~ Saul must have simply disagreed with God that destroying everything in the Amelekite nation was the right thing to do. So, Saul spares this king, and it says “all that was good.” Knowing Saul, this meant other men and women, too. The Amelekites were wholly given over to evil; and the commandment of God to Saul should have been carried out to the letter. They should have received God’s judgment in full at this time by King Saul. By sparing anything of these people, one can only conclude Saul made this campaign for the sole purpose of gathering booty and spoil. God forbid that altogether, you may recall; Israel was chosen to act as the judge for Almighty God in this particular connection – and Saul failed to execute His command....

***10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,***

***11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.***

~ You will remember Samuel and a small group of people – about thirty – actually chose Saul to be the king over Israel. I think Samuel loved Saul and he wanted Saul to make good in office. I believe Samuel was supportive of Saul much more than he was for David as king. However, this is God’s rejection, and Samuel isn’t about to go against the Lord in any way. Samuel was always obedient and faithful to God – even when he didn’t really like what God had told him to do. Well, I’m sure you can spot Saul’s double-talk, subterfuge and his attempts to camouflage his conduct as we continue reading here....

***12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.***

**13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.**

**14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?**

**15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.**

~ Saul is simply shameful as he states this pious reason for having disobeyed God. To tell Samuel that this disobedience was done in order to have some fine sacrifices to the Lord is a bone-sucking lie. This is how men attempt to cover up their sins and dishonesty today – by claiming some high and lofty purpose for God – it’s always a lie! Our contemporary culture is plagued with that type of hypocrisy, friends. I am rather amused at how many people here give money to the dumbest causes, of which they know NOTHING about. They always seem to need to make it known how much they gave, too. Well, if you do not give to and support *ONLY* the place where you receive your blessings, then your giving is sinful; and you will answer to God, friends – make no mistake about this. Most so-called Christian giving today should be stopped while asking for forgiveness. God says pay your preacher and teacher. It’s too easy to put up a front while disobeying God for our own selfish reasons. Well, it’s certainly true of this Bible example, Saul. Of course, Saul blamed the *PEOPLE*, saying the people spared the best of the sheep. Perhaps he lost control for a moment? It makes no sense, and Samuel isn’t stupid. These are just lies on top of lies. Saul is the king, and he was the one responsible for every last little ewe lamb. And Samuel lays this all out for Saul as we read on....

**16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.**

**17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?**

**18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.**

**19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?**

**20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.**

**21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.**

~ Saul is one shameful and Satanic man. Notice he says to Samuel "... *the Lord **THY** god*" – not **MY** God – not even **OUR** God – all while trying to convince Samuel he had obeyed this God, even as he is caught squarely in the act of his disobedience! It just doesn't get any worse than this type of person, friends – and they are *EVERYWHERE* today. My advice is to stay as far away from those people as you can get. They will betray you at the first opportunity. Saul simply refuses to take any responsibility when he knows full well he is the one to blame....

**22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**

**23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.**

~ Verse twenty-two and twenty-three comprise one remarkable passage of Scripture. God very definitely and specifically rejects Saul as king. God's rejection is based squarely on his rebellion and disobedience. If you claim to be a child of God, I suggest you take some serious notes now. All I seem

to see on this forum on which I teach is a friendly and informal approach to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ. So many people seem to think Jesus is just another friend of theirs; and they say that in a reckless and irresponsible manner. When you say Jesus is your friend, you bring Him down to your own small level. It's quite disingenuous. Make sure YOU are His friend – not the other way around. Jesus said we are His friend IF we do whatsoever He commands. So, how about your obedience, friends? You are a hypocrite and possibly a heretic if you call Jesus your friend while not obeying Him – you might want to just write that down.

Disobedience is *WORSE* than witchcraft. I promise you will be *CRUSHED* in rebellion and disobedience; and there are a whole lot of people I am talking to in this report. When I meet the man who is totally disobedient to the Lord Jesus Christ while claiming to be some great saint, I KNOW they are not His children – I don't care how much they claim Jesus – Jesus isn't going to be claiming them. Jesus is the One Who calls *US* friends, friends – otherwise, you're a fake and a phony. To be clear, I am *NOT* saying works enters into our salvation equation. I am saying the genuinely born-again child of God who has come to the place where they want to trust Him will also desire to be obedient to Him. It simply cannot be otherwise.

This is so important; I simply cannot express how critical a fundamental understanding of this doctrine is. If you love Christ, keep His command. To be a child of God means to know Him – to know Him is to love Him. That one point alone is what makes Christianity different from all other religions of the world. You can be a Buddhist without knowing Buddha; you can be a Confucius with knowing Confucius! You can be a member of any other religion without knowing the founder; but it is *IMPOSSIBLE* to be a Christian and not know the Lord Jesus Christ. To know Him is life eternal, too, by the way. I wish I could properly stress to you the importance of obedience through this passage we have just considered. I trust you'll meditate on this for a while today....

***24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.***

~ Saul claiming that he was “afraid of the people” reveals to Samuel that Saul just can’t stop lying to him and God. Saul wanted to please everybody like a good politician. Many preachers attempt to appease and please everybody they come into contact with, too. There is more compromise with the Word of God on this forum than there is sound teaching, and most of them are just too stupid to realize they are stupid, lost and disgustingly ignorant figures claiming to be children of the King and all that nonsense – they’re children of Belial. The number one problem in the church today is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. If you are God’s child, you **CANNOT** get along with everyone. The world is going to hate you....

***25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.***

***26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.***

***27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.***

***28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.***

***29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.***

~ ‘Repent’ means to change ones mind, and God never changes – Saul was the one who **FAILED** to repent. God had said all along that if Saul didn’t obey, He would remove him. Well, God is removing Saul now. See, Saul’s following confession is not genuine. I know that because of the cover-up happening in this account. Saul wants Samuel to go through the **FORM** of religious worship with him because Saul doesn’t want the people to know God had rejected him. Saul was sorry, but only because he had no way out of the situation. Saul wasn’t willing to pay the penalty for his disobedience

by any means. Saul is a hypocrite right through to the bitter end of his life from here....

***30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.***

***31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.***

***32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.***

***33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.***

***34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.***

***35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.***

~ Well, this has been one unpleasant and harsh leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God in this report. God prescribed some bitter medicine for us to contemplate. My friends, God is a God of judgment – and He hates our sin! God is going to judge that which is wrong in my life – and in *YOUR* life, too! That which is evil in your life is going to be destroyed altogether. I don't know about you, but I rejoice that God is going to do that. I thank Him that *NO ONE* is getting by with their evil today. You might think you are getting away with your sins, dishonesty and disobedience – murder, drunkenness, lying and adultery – all while claiming the Blood of Christ and professing faith; but you are woefully and horribly wrong – in fact, you wouldn't be more misguided if you were an atheist. I hope I have made myself abundantly clear. Samuel executed judgment on this wicked and vile ruler named King Saul.



Samuel mourned for Saul, though, because Samuel loved Saul. Saul's failure almost seems to be a direct reflection on Samuel's judgment of character! I think Samuel was embarrassed and ashamed of what had happened, and the way it all transpired. Samuel had no choice but to speak to Saul so abruptly. If you love someone, you'll speak to them plainly – and not mix words or pull punches. You can only speak that way when it comes from the heart of God, friends. God's love will *IN NO WAY* deter Him from judging your sin. Don't think for one moment God cannot love you and also judge your sins. God is love – yes – but He doesn't save by love. God is holy, righteous and just, too. We all need to bow down and thank Him that He has made a way for us to escape judgment – and that escape is through *OBEDIENCE* to the Lord Jesus Christ our God ~