

Yes, I did - No, You Didn't

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Samuel 15:13, "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

King Saul had been given a simple task by the Lord. He was to go to the Amalekites and to destroy them, animals and all. God had his reasons for demanding this and those who follow Him are to obey His commands. Saul did most of what he was told to do, but not all. He saved some of the animals giving the excuse that he was going to sacrifice them to the Lord. King Agag was also spared in contrast of the command to destroy all of the Amalekites. King Saul, like many others, felt that he did enough of what God said to do. Since he did most of the command, he felt that the Lord would be pleased.

Was he giving it second thoughts when he told Samuel that he had obeyed the will of the Lord? Twice he said he had performed the orders that he

had been given even though he knew that he had changed the command by leaving alive some of those who were to be destroyed. He wanted Samuel to tell him that he had done a good job. Samuel asked what these animals were that he was hearing if all had been destroyed as commanded

What could Saul say except to say that the Amalekites had been destroyed and he had done what he was told to do. Generally speaking the Amalekites were destroyed as a nation, but still king Agag survived and the best of the sheep and cattle were spared. When God said to destroy them all he meant all of them. Even to change God's commandments a little bit is to disobey Him completely. Saul says, "Yes I did," but God says, "No, you didn't."

I can't help but wonder why, and how so many through the years have followed the example of King Saul. He was punished by losing the kingdom and his life because of his disobeying the commandments of God. Can anyone convince themselves that they can escape where Saul and all the others did not? One thing the Lord is demanding, and always will, is that he be honored with obedience to his word. Once again we should consider what Jesus said in Luke 6:46 which says, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and

do not the things which I say?"

There is no acceptable answer that one can give to this question.

The Lord tells us to witness of Him as we live here on earth. Do we do that? We don't have to try to preach to everyone we meet on the street to do this. If we live for the Lord and do what we should our life will show our faith. **Matthew 5:16**, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." A good life says more than words to those who see someone living for God. I think that the person who said, "If I have to tell you that I'm a Christian after you've known me awhile, then I'd better take a look at how I live."

Some may think that they go to church so they must be doing God's will. The Lord may say, "No, you're not." If we go to church and yet do our will, we're not doing the will of God. Look at King Saul for an example of this. He did most of what he had been told to do, but not all. He had destroyed the Amalekites as a nation, but had left King Agag alive, along with some of the sheep and cattle. That was doing pretty good wasn't it? God said that it was not good at all. He wanted all of his commands to be obeyed, not just most of it.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of 1 Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL
ALTHOUGH SAMUEL HAS WARNED THE ISRAELITES OF THE MANY HARSHIPS THEY WILL ENDURE UNDER A KING, STILL THEY INSIST UPON HAVING A RULER...

GO YE EVERY MAN TO HIS OWN HOME!

THE LORD WILL GIVE YOU A KING!

...SAMUEL AWAITS FURTHER WORD FROM THE LORD ON WHO SHALL REIGN AS KING...

AND NOW, RESIDING IN THE LANDS OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, IS KISH....

...WHOSE SON, SAUL, IS A GOODLY MAN, STRONG AND IN STATURE, TALLER BY A HEAD AND SHOULDER THAN ANY OTHER MAN IN ALL THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL...

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