

# 1 Samuel 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

---

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

Samuel's devastating question - 'What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?' - lets reality expose self-deception. The spared animals testify against Saul's claim of obedience. Samuel does not argue theology; he simply points to evidence. The Hebrew verbs for animal sounds (qol, 'voice') ironically suggests the livestock 'testifies' against the king. Evidence-based confrontation remains the most effective response to self-deception.

## Historical Context

---

The sounds of livestock would have been unmistakable. Saul could not hide the evidence of his disobedience. Samuel's rhetorical question forces Saul to acknowledge what his claim to obedience attempted to deny.

## Related Passages

---

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. What 'bleating' in your life testifies against claims of obedience?
2. How does evidence-based confrontation differ from theoretical theological argument?

## Interlinear Text

---

�ָמַת	הַ	שְׁמֹועַ	לִ	וְיִ	אָמַר	בְּאַזְעַ
<b>said</b>	<b>And Samuel</b>	H4100	<b>What meaneth then this bleating</b>	I6963	<b>of the sheep</b>	H6629
H559						
אָנֹכִ	וְאַשְׁ	רַ	בְּבָקָרְ			
H2088	<b>in mine ears</b>	<b>What meaneth then this bleating</b>	<b>of the oxen</b>	H1241	H834	H595
	H241	H6963				
שְׁמֹעַ:						
<b>which I hear</b>						
H8085						

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)