

true soldier. Samuel goes out to meet Saul when he comes back from the battle. God had told Samuel that King Saul had not obeyed Him, but had let the king of their enemies live and had kept alive the best of their sheep and oxen. God is sorry He had made Saul king, because Saul is so disobedient.

Here they are—the old man Samuel, bent and gray, leaning upon his staff, and the strong young soldier King Saul (strokes). Saul thinks Samuel will not know of his disobedience. He comes up smiling, and says, "I have done what God told me to do, I have conquered the enemy". Listen! Samuel hears the bleating of sheep and the lowing of cattle! "What does this mean, Saul? Where did these come from?" Tell the reply, v. 15. Then Samuel tells Saul all that God has done for him and reminds him of what God had told him to do (vs. 16-19). King Saul made an excuse for disobeying, vs. 20, 21. Samuel told Saul that God would rather have OBEDIENCE than anything else.

Saul's Punishment—Now we see this soldier PUNISHED for his disobedience. He may no longer be king, a new king will be chosen in his place.

Saul's Sorrow—Saul says he is sorry for his sin. He blames it on some one else, v. 24. He begs Samuel to forgive him and go with him again to worship God, but Samuel said, "No! you knew what was right, and you chose to do wrong; so you will no longer be king". (Tell vs. 27, 28.) But Saul begged Samuel so earnestly to go with him to worship, that at last he consented. After this, Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul to Gibeah, and they never met again all their lives.

Golden Text—Repeat Golden Text—a promise for us all to make and keep.

A Good Soldier—"Don't talk to me, Murther, I'se a soldier, an' I'se waitin' here for ze captain. He said me 'tay here till he tumbled back"—and the dear, sturdy little "soldier" could not be persuaded to leave his post till the "captain" returned and gave leave to "come and play now". Will you all be good, true little soldiers, and obey the word of your great Captain—JESUS?

Repeat—The Lord our God we'll serve,

His voice will we obey;

And from His patient tender love

We'll never turn away.

Something to Think About—Disobedience brings punishment.

FROM THE PLATFORM

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE EXCUSES SENTENCE

Ask for the heads of the Lesson Plan, and print them on the blackboard, as above. Recall the commission given to Saul, to destroy the Amalekites and their cattle; his DISOBEDIENCE in sparing the king, Agag; the meeting with Samuel; Saul's claim to have done all that he was bidden; and the witness against him of the sheep and oxen. Make all this very vivid by rapid questioning. Next turn to the EXCUSES. Bring out here the cowardice of laying the blame on the people, and the hypocrisy of pretending that the cattle had been saved for sacrifices to the Lord. Then, the SENTENCE. Make sure that the scholars understand that Saul's kingship was taken from him, not because of a single act of disobedience, but for the disobedient spirit which it showed. Call for the Golden Text, and impress the importance of obedience to God and its great motive in His love to us, as shown in the gift of His own Son.