

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That God expects an exact obedience!
2. That sinners' excuses cannot deceive God!
3. That lost opportunities can never be regained!

The Lesson Catechism.—(For the entire school). 1. What did God command Saul to do? To destroy the Amalekites. 2. Who were the Amalekites? A very wicked people. 3. What did Saul do? He disobeyed God. 4. How did he disobey God? In sparing the best of the spoil. 5. For what purpose did he say that it was spared? To sacrifice to the Lord. 6. What did Samuel say to him? "To obey is better than sacrifice." 7. What was Saul's penalty for his disobedience? God rejected him as king.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The acceptable sacrifice.

QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

1. **A Just Reproof**, v. 12-19. What false assurance did the king give the prophet? Why did Samuel mistrust the assurance? What was Saul's explanation? Of what command was the king reminded? What searching question was asked him?

2. **A Weak Excuse**, v. 20, 21. On what ground did the king claim to be obedient? Upon whom did he lay the sin of disobedience? What plea was offered as an excuse for them? What excuse is there for disobedience?

3. **A Divine Rejection**, v. 22, 23. With what service is God well pleased? To what is rebellion compared? What was the penalty for Saul's disobedience?

4. **A Useless Regret**, v. 24-26. What confession did Saul make, and what request? What was Samuel's reason for refusal? What will be the final result of disobedience? Prov. 1. 24-26.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where does this lesson teach—

1. That there is no hidden transgression?
2. That obedience is essential to acceptance with God?
3. That God's rejection of us is based on our rejection of him?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did Saul soon begin to do? To disobey the Lord. Why did he do this? He loved his own way. Whom did the Lord command him to destroy? The Amalekites. Why did God wish them to be destroyed? Because they were wicked and would not repent. How did Saul disobey this command? He spared Agag, the king of the Amalekites. What else did he do? He brought away many sheep and oxen. Whom did the Lord send to Saul? Samuel. How did Saul try to deceive Samuel? He told him he had obeyed the Lord. How did Samuel know the truth? God had told him. What question did Samuel ask Saul? "Why do you disobey

God, who has done so much for you?" What did Saul try to show? His innocence. Whom did he say had taken the sheep and the oxen? The people, that they might offer sacrifices to God. What is better than sacrifice in God's sight? Obedience. What did Samuel say God would take from Samuel? The kingdom of Israel. What did Saul beg of Samuel? To ask God to forgive his sins. Did Samuel think it right to do this? No; he left Saul, and never saw him again.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

We may be like Saul in thinking—That God does not notice all we do. That we may obey or not as we please. That our way is better than his. That he will not punish sin.

ANALYTICAL AND BIBLICAL OUTLINE.

The Spirit of the Sinner.

I. THE SPIRIT OF VANITY.

Set him up a place....gone about. v. 12.
"Let another man praise thee." Prov. 27. 2.

II. THE SPIRIT OF FALSEHOOD.

I have performed the commandment. v. 13.
"Covereth his sins shall not prosper." Prov. 28. 13.

III. THE SPIRIT OF HYPOCRISY.

The best to sacrifice to the Lord. v. 15.
"Sacrifice of the wicked....an abomination." Prov. 15. 8.

IV. THE SPIRIT OF INGRATITUDE.

Thou wast little....the Lord anointed. v. 17.
"Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn." Isa. 51. 1.

V. THE SPIRIT OF DISOBEDIENCE.

Didst thou not obey....the Lord. v. 19.
"Obey my voice....I will be your God." Jer. 7. 23.

VI. THE SPIRIT OF GREED.

Didst fly upon the spoil. v. 19.
"Beware of covetousness." Luke 12. 15.

VII. THE SPIRIT OF EXCUSE.

The people took of the spoil. v. 21.
"Every man shall bear his own burden." Gal. 6. 5.

VIII. THE SPIRIT OF DISLOYALTY.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. v. 23.
"Brought up children...rebelled against me." Isa. 1. 2.

IX. THE SPIRIT OF SELF-WILL.

Stubbornness is an iniquity. v. 23.
"They have chosen their own ways." Isa. 66. 3.

ADDITIONAL PRACTICAL LESSONS.

Disobedience to God.

1. Those who have been disobedient to God are very apt to vaunt their own deeds. v. 12, 13.