Giving to God-Even When It Hurts

Greg Kline · 1 Chronicles 21:1–27

INTRODUCTION

- Our money, because of inflation, has lost some of its value, some of its spending power, even.
- Why? A thousand dollars means something to me. It carries a value that is significant.
- And so this morning, I want to talk about giving to God, even when it hurts.

1 David Sinned and God Was Displeased

1 Chronicles 21:1–8; 1 Chronicles 21:13; 1 Chronicles 21:15

- Joab knew that this census taking was not the right thing to be doing.
- But God was displeased with this thing, and he struck Israel.
- Let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is very great. But do not let me fall into the hand of men.
- David had sinned. He had self-described himself as acting very foolishly. God was responding to David's action.

2 Burnt Offerings That Cost Me Nothing

1 Chronicles 21:18–27

- Give it to me at its full price, that the plague may be averted from the people.
- I will not take for the Lord what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.
- Who was at fault? David was at fault. Who was to build the altar? David was to build the altar.
- This was a costly sacrifice. I know to the king, perhaps he had that, but it surely cost him something.
- But do we offer things to God that cost us nothing?

3 Deny Himself and Take Up His Cross Daily

Luke 9:23–25

- If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow after me.
- For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?
- Every instinct of our human bodies, unless otherwise trained, teaches us to go for self.
- But brothers and sisters, it's not just about doing the bare minimum. Denying ourselves means denying ourselves.
- We need to realize that Christianity is going to cost us something. And at minimum, it will cost us ourselves.

4 True Sacrifice: The Poor Widow Gave All

Mark 12:41–44

- This poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box.

- For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had.
- If we put out a percentage, that's not all that we have. That's all that we've committed to give. All that we have is all that we have.
- Have I given all of my time to the Lord? If not, I still have time to give.
- Am I offering to God that which is easy, right? That which cost me nothing, as David said. Or am I truly sacrificing?

5 What Quality Service Are We Offering to God?

Malachi 1:6–9

- The act of giving up something that you want to keep, especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone.
- When you offer blind animals and sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil?
- Present that to your governor. Will he accept you or show you favor? says the Lord of hosts.
- Would our employers accept the level of concentration that we have here while we're worshiping God?

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Am I offering God that which costs me nothing? Am I offering God my best? Am I offering everything that I have to give?**

MY NOTES