The Lure of the Easy Way

Greg Kline · 1 Chronicles 21

INTRODUCTION

- All of us, from young to old, are allured by this idea of an easy way out.
- In 1 Chronicles chapter 21, we see David violated what should have been an easy idea from God.

1 David Transgressed God's Law

1 Chronicles 21:1–8

- Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.
- It seems likely that David's pride is what is being called out in its sinful nature here.
- I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing, but now please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.
- David recognizes that he has violated God's will on the issue he needs to change, and that starts with confessing his sin and asking to be forgiven.

2 I Will Not Offer That Which Costs Me Nothing

1 Chronicles 21:9–17; 1 Chronicles 21:24

- Yes, God will forgive sins, but there still were physical consequences for his sin, albeit he was spiritually forgiven.
- Seventy thousand men of Israel fell. David was not among them.
- I will not offer to God that which costs me nothing.
- David did exactly what God commanded him every step of the way, and he was unwilling to take the cheap and easy way out.

3 We Lose Out on What Is Our Best

Malachi 1:6–10; Luke 9:23; Acts 17

- 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?
- It's not about an easy way or a hard way, it's that there is only one way.
- We want to guard our time. Because we think of it as ours rather than God's.
- God needs to come first and only in our priorities in this life.

4 We Don't See the Problem

Isaiah 1:3–17

- A second reason the easy way is so tempting is frankly, because we don't see the problem.
- What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices, says the Lord.
- In their worship, in their sacrifices that were only for God, they were wearying him.

- When we don't see a problem with not giving our all to God, we have missed the entirety of what God wants for us.

5 The Price for the Only Way Is Far Too High

Luke 14:25–33; 1 Peter 2

- It's tempting because the price for the right way, the price for the only way, is far too high.
- If we're going to count the cost of following Jesus, we're going to recognize that cost is a lot.
- That cost is not only time, money, effort, it might cost me relationships, it might cost me discomfort.
- When Jesus was reviled, he did not revile in return. It's going to be hard.

6 The Anatomy of a Sacrificed Life

Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1; Matthew 10:34–38

- There's only one way to be pleasing to God, and that is through the anatomy of a sacrificed life.
- If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow after me.
- The rub is not volunteering to follow Jesus. The rub is in actually following him.
- I have to stop looking out for me, and that means when I wake up, not thinking about what I have to do, but about what I can do for God and others.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **To follow after Jesus means to likewise deny self, pick up our cross, do so daily, and follow after him.**

MY NOTES