

II Samuel 24:24

I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing."

The story that precedes this verse is when David commanded Joab, the commander of his army, to go out and take a census. This act angered the Lord our God deeply, because in this, David was looking at the number or size of his kingdom rather than the Lord. Once Joab returned with a count of David's men of war, the news actually pierced David's heart because he realized how wrong he'd been to ever do it. After recognizing his fault, David asked the Lord to forgive him, and even to remove the iniquity from before him. But instead, the Lord sent Gad, David's seer to King David with a choice. Because of the severity of David's sin, God was offering David a choice between three consequences: verse 13, **so Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider and see what answer I shall return to Him who sent me."**

King David chose the three days of pestilence, and seventy thousand of his men died. When the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem, God relented and told the angel, "It is enough". The angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. It was here that King David was told by Gad to buy that very spot and build an altar to the Lord. Today we know this very location as the present site of the temple in Jerusalem. Please follow along with me to verse 23, **"Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the LORD your God accept you." ²⁴ However, the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy *it* from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God which cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.** Clearly, I can see why the Lord loved David so much. King David was far from perfect, but he had such a pure heart towards the Lord. Often people are only looking for something from God, without any concern of retribution on their part. But not King David, he could not allow himself the shame of offering the Lord something that was free and easy. There is a word for this type of action, it is called integrity! King David had more respect and honor for God, than to ever offer or give to Him anything that was without cost to himself. In a day and age where so many are struggling with the tithe, here we see a man who is unwilling to give anything to his God, which cost him nothing.

This picture is an excellent gauge for each of us, to measure ourselves by. Would you offer the Lord a gift which cost you nothing? Or, would do as He has already done for you, to give His best even to the point of laying down His life for you? Most people in the church have absolutely no problem asking God for just about anything, yet how many of you are willing to give back whatever He asks? If we applied the same fervor to His wishes as we do our supplications; then our lives would most likely be very different than they are. Church, I exhort you to get real with your Savior. He has already established the example for each of us; don't let another day pass, where you are holding anything back from Him. Make Jesus, Lord of your life today!!