

Determining the Price

2 Samuel 24:11-25

11 For when David was up in the morning, the word of the Lord came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

12 Go and say unto David, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

13 So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

14 And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

15 So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men.

16 And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

17 And David spake unto the Lord when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

18 And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the Lord in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

19 And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded.

20 And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground.

21 *And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people.*

22 *And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood.*

23 *All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The Lord thy God accept thee.*

24 *And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

25 *And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.*

- This is the second time David is asked the question- What would you do personally to stop the enslavement of slaughter of my people.
- The first time - ²⁵ And the men of Israel said, Have ye seen this man that is come up? surely to defy Israel is he come up: and it shall be, that the man who killeth him, the king will enrich him with great riches, and will give him his daughter, and make his father's house free in Israel.
- The last time - only the salvation of those sentenced to die

1. There was a plague of death in the land and was decimating the people.
2. The reason for the plague was due to a law that was past.
3. David 2nd chronicles represent the solution to halt the plague.
4. The man after Gods own heart, prophet priest and king knows the mind and the ways of God concerning sin – sacrifice.
5. David repents and proceeds to do the thing that God would require - God rejects the sacrifices of the wicked.
6. David must go near the very thing that is destroying - he must confront the problem.
7. Prior self-gain at the end of his life the salvation of the innocent- the law impacted the innocent - what have these sheep done?
8. He's offered the goods for the sacrifice free-convenience- no effort- required nothing of himself.
9. David knows an important truth and does not derail the promise nor the process - it has to cost me something.
10. He pays the price not for being King but for saving the innocent!

**Jesus Christ was asked the same question
Martin Luther King had to have been asked the
same question by God**

Luke 14:53

26 *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

27 *And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.*

28 *For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?*

29 *Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,*

30 *Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.*

31 *Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?*

32 *Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.*

33 *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

The message is simple: If you want to be my disciple then you'd better count the costs. It's an "all or nothing" proposition. If you're not ready to jump in with both feet, and stay with the journey until the very end, then perhaps its best to stay behind rather than suffer the embarrassment of starting out on the journey and having to turn back before you get to the end.

It's important to remember, Jesus says to us, if you decide to be my follower, it can cost you your family, friendships, jobs, and your place in society. And that's

the way it was up until Constantine made Christianity a legal religion in the Roman Empire and granted it most favored status. No sooner did this take place than things changed for the church. Not only did it become beneficial to be a Christian, but your life might depend upon it. And so, the churches filled up, but the fervor of the people began to decline.

Converts in countries where Christianity still isn't the majority religion, understand much better than us the truth in Jesus' statement about the costs involved in being a disciple.