After God's Heart

Lesson 14 2 Samuel 24:18-25; 1 Chronicles 29:1-20 April 7, 2019

Gifts that Cost Me Nothing

Introduction

Like David and the Israelites, everything that we have comes from the Lord. When David repented after taking the census, he realized that sacrifice is worthless if it costs him nothing. Giving to the Lord requires not only our finances but also our hearts, minds, time and energy but when we give back to the Lord, our hearts are softened.

Memory verse: "But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."—2 Samuel 24:24

Pray and read 2 Samuel 24:18-25 and 1 Chronicles 29:1-20. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What do the passages say?

- 1. What did David do that caused the Lord to send a plague upon Israel? (2 Samuel 24:10)
- 2. What commandment did the Lord give to David after he repented? (2 Samuel 24:18)

- 3. What did Araunah offer to David and how did David respond? (2 Samuel 24:22-24)
- 4. Who gave first when Israel gathered material to build the temple? (1 Chronicles 29:3-5)
- 5. How does David start his prayer to the Lord in 1 Chronicles 29:10?
- 6. From whom does wealth and honor come? (1 Chronicles 29:12)
- 7. How do the people of Israel regard their time on this earth? (1 Chronicles 29:15)

What do the passages mean?

1. Araunah was a farmer but offered to give his oxen and his oxen yoke as sacrifices. How much would this have cost Araunah? Would it have been a worthless sacrifice or a very costly sacrifice? (2 Samuel 24:22-23)

2.	How did David respond to Araunah's offer? Do you think that Araunah's generosity influenced David in his response? What is the New Testament's standard and purpose for giving to God? (2 Corinthians 9:6-14)
3.	Why did David and the people respond with joy after
	they had given their precious offerings to the Lord? (1 Chronicles 29:5, 9)
4.	David thanks the Lord profusely and at the same time that he acknowledges the Lord's glory. Solomon was very young as he witnessed this. How do you think this demonstrative display of love for the Lord affected Solomon? (1 Chronicles 29:10-13)

5. David gave from his treasure before asking the people to bring gifts. How could this inspire more generosity from the people to watch their king give so abundantly? (1 Chronicles 29:5)

Applying the passages

1. When we think of giving, we usually think of tithing (giving 10% of your income back to God), but David gave not only with his finances but also with his heart, his energy, and his life. How would you describe your giving? Is it limited to the tithe, or are you even giving Jesus your heart, mind, and soul?

2. David refused to give an offering that cost him nothing, yet all that we have comes from the Lord. When we give, are we giving to God or are we merely giving back to God? Does it feel different to you when you give a little than when you give a lot? Does giving more of your time, money or energy remind you that all that we have comes from the Lord?

3. Consider what your motivation is when you give to the Lord - obligation, egotism, thankfulness. If Jesus were to examine your heart would he rejoice when he found integrity there? (1 Chronicles 29:17; Jeremiah 17:10) Do you strive to give sacrificially? (Mark 12:41-44) Write a prayer to the Lord asking for Him to help you give more generously, sacrificially, and in the integrity of your heart.