

ATTITUDES OF GIVING

(Text: 2 Samuel 24:15-25)

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God had sent a pestilence upon Israel. To remove it, God instructed David to go to the threshing floor of Araunah and rear an altar unto the Lord. When David arrived at the appointed place, Araunah said “Let my Lord the king take and offer what seemeth good unto him: behold here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood” (v.22). “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 cost me nothing” (v.24). Four attitudes prevail:

First Attitude: “Neither will I offer (give).” Some folks are not willing to give of their earning or possessions to anyone. They are what is normally called, “tight”—selfish and regardless of the conditions around them, like those who are poor, suffering, etc.—they cling to what is “theirs.” Like the prayer someone has described: “please bless me, my wife, my son, John, and his wife, us four and no more.”

Second Attitude: “Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord.” Strange, but true, there are folks who will give to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, drives in the community, etc., but never give to the Lord. Time wise, one lady asked the Elders to relieve her from teaching a class because she did not have time to prepare and teach. This same lady had on display at a Red Cross drive a bedspread for sale that took over 200 hours to make.

Third Attitude: “Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me.” As long as I have a good place to live, a savings account to protect me, etc., I will give a percentage of the surplus. However if it “cost me” and I have to make a sacrifice—“give up something”—I will offer nothing.

Fourth Attitude (David's Attitude): “Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing.” Sacrificially giving!—giving to the Lord something which cost me. I will give up something to be able to give to the Lord! May God help us to have David's attitude.

THINK ABOUT IT!~