

By Pastor Mitch Horton

In II Samuel 24 and in I Chronicles 21, we find parallel versions of the same story. In verse 24 of each chapter, King David makes the statement, “I will not take what is yours for the Lord, nor offer burnt offerings with that which cost me nothing.” When King David spoke this to Araunah, I believe it was from the heart, with reference to his love for God. It is not my intention to expand on II Samuel 24:24 or I Chronicles 21:24, but to examine where we as Christians and worshipers are in relation to David’s declaration.

This statement has lately captured my attention in my devotional and quiet time. Since coming across it, I’ve been led to evaluate my own life and my own walk with the Lord. In doing that, I’m realizing how much I want to be like King David, saying to my Father that, indeed, I will not give You back anything that has cost me nothing. Because You deserve everything and nothing less!

How many times have we stood during worship and lifted our hands and our songs, just going through motions because it’s what we do? Do we give back that which costs us nothing?

Of course, each of us can only answer this question from our own heart. I know that in my life, when Jesus saved me, He paid the ultimate price and gave the ultimate sacrifice, declaring to everyone that He would not give anything that cost Him nothing. Have you ever thought about this statement from Jesus’ standpoint? When I do, it brings tears to my eyes, and I’m moved to worship God. Not just a song and a dance, not just two fast and two slow songs - I’m moved to worship in spirit and in truth!

In sharing this, my intent is not to point a finger or to condemn anyone, but to merely pose a challenge to all believers and worshipers: let’s examine ourselves in regards to who and what we put before God. What kinds of activities and pleasures do we substitute for intimacy and quiet time? Can we boldly look Jesus

in the eye and say, “Lord and Savior, I have not given unto You that which has cost me nothing?” When we worship, do we give our all, or are we just running through a motion? I believe there is more. We serve an awesome God, a God that is merciful and just in all His ways. He requires and deserves more!

As we move on throughout these days, months, and years of our lives, I pray that we press in to the fullness of God even more than we ever have. Our very being depends on getting on our faces and becoming more passionate and more aware of what God is doing in these last days. It is in Him that we live and move and have our being! It is time that we, as believers and worshipers, seek the face of God, listen for the sound of His voice, and wait in His presence. We need to pray that the Holy Spirit reveals to us the things that keep us from experiencing the total fullness of God in our lives, our homes, and in our families.

He desires to be with us, and that we be with Him. He makes a way when there seems to be no way. God is asking for intimacy and relationship. I’m so thankful that all I have to do is ask and cry out, and He’s there to meet the need, answer my heart’s cries, and comfort me in all areas of my life. I owe Him my life and my worship. He is everything! I love Him so much.

I want to end with a prayer: “Lord, help me and everyone else that reads this to examine the offerings and worship that we bring to You. Let us not give that which is heartless and meaningless, but help us to give You our all. Give us a greater intimacy and revelation of You. We desire to see Your face and feel Your embrace. Give us greater passion and fire, like we have never had before. Let revival start in the hearts of Your sons and daughters, and let our hearts beat for You stronger than ever before. We love you, Lord. Amen.”