

# One Sacrificial Offering

2 Samuel 24:18 – 25

## I. Intro

### A. Today, deacon election; qualifications according to bylaws

- i. The deacons of this church must be elected by the church based on the spiritual qualifications as set forth in Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 3:8-12 of the New Testament:
  - a) *Full of the Spirit and wisdom*
  - b) *Worthy of respect and sincere*
  - c) *Manages his family well and is deserving of his children's obedience and respect*
  - d) *Not over-indulging in any intoxicating beverage*
  - e) *Not pursuing dishonest gain*
  - f) *Hold to the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience*
- ii. *He shall be a member of this church for at least ~~one~~ two year prior to his election.*
- iii. *He shall be at least twenty-one years of age prior to his election.*
- iv. (For all of us) **Expected to be committed, faithful tithers of time, spiritual gifts, and finances**

B. Last week, as we've been focusing on basic Biblical doctrine, understood that God owns everything, we own nothing; God is the provider (Jehovah-Jireh)/source of all things

C. Continuing with that today, talk about owing God; first realize, never pay the Lord back for all He's done, still does, for us – but we do owe God, we will always owe God

D. Passage today, 2 Samuel, David is king of Israel and he has “messed up” again; Bible describes David as “man after God's own heart” but he was still human and made mistakes

E. David ordered his military commander, Joab, to take a census of all the fighting men in Israel; showed a lack of trust in the Lord for protection and for provision of men to fight for Israel when needed; also, an indication of David's pride in hundreds of thousands of forces at his command (**v. 9** tells of 1.3 million)

F. Remember last week talked about two views of ownership – selfish and selfless – this certainly an example of selfish

G. After the numbers reported to David – **REFER v. 10**

H. In a rare instance in scripture the Lord gives David 3 options for suffering the consequences of his sin – **1)** 3 years of famine, **2)** David pursued by enemies for 3 months, and **3)** 3 days of pestilence/plaque

i. On surface seems each choice is lesser in severity but not the case

ii. **v. 15:** Pestilence occurs and in just those three days 70,000 men die

- I. Angel, agent of God's punishment of David's sin through pestilence, appeared at the threshing floor of a Jebusite man named Araunah; a prophet named Gad (served as an advisor/counsel of David) comes to David with instructions for giving an offering to seek God's forgiveness
- J. **READ 2 Samuel 24:18 – 25 (emphasize v. 24)**
- K. Last week mentioned that one of Jesus' main topics was about possessions and ownership, included in that was also giving back to God because of all He gives us; so extremely important as a disciple of Christ because our attitude towards giving, whether it's to the Lord or for others, is a reflection of the heart
- L. 3 reasons why giving back to God (call this God's tithe, not our tithe), is major part of being a true disciple/follower of Jesus Christ

## II. 1<sup>st</sup> Reason – Giving is Acknowledging God Owns Everything

- A. [SLIDE] **Biblical Truth:** Once a person comes to believe/understand that God owns everything, they'll never GIVE to God again because they'll realize what they're doing is GIVING BACK to God what He already owns
  - i. From passage last week: 1 Chronicles 29:14 (ESV)  
<sup>14</sup>“... For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.”
- B. Started with second generation of human beings – Cain and Abel; Cain a farmer and Abel a shepherd; both gave back to God what had been given to them – produce and sheep (the Law from God had not been given yet, God had instilled this practice in them)
- C. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sin entered the world, God knew that selfishness had entered the human heart; to counter greediness God initiated a discipline of “giving back” to Him to remind us that everything comes from Him
- D. This is a sign, a tangible measure, of a person's true spiritual condition

## III. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reason – Giving is a Measure of Our Spiritual Condition

- A. Again, look at the offerings of Cain and Abel; Genesis 4:3–5 (ESV)  
<sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering he had no regard.
  - i. Cain brought what he could just scrounge up, just what he had available (leftovers); Abel brought the firstborn, the best most valuable of his flock – THE FIRST WAS THE BEST

- ii. Can't help but see the difference between the spiritual condition of Cain vs. Abel; as further illustration of Cain's spiritual condition we're told couple verses later Cain kills his brother Abel
- B. Giving back to God what's already His in the first place is the way we cultivate spiritual health
- C. Jesus gives a very clear picture of how important this giving back to God with a firstfruit mindset is; Matthew 6:21 (ESV)
- <sup>21</sup> **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**; in other words, your heart follows your treasure
- D. As humans, we can't truly know what's in a person's heart, but God knows; we can easily make spiritual claims about ourselves that would be hard to prove; Jesus taught giving back to God is a real/measurable indicator of what's going on within us
- E. When it comes to giving back to God you'll either have the "first and best" attitude of Abel, or you'll reserve the "first and best" for yourself like Cain
- F. [SLIDE] **Biblical Truth:** You can give back to God and still not love Him, but you can't love God and not give back to Him
- G. **Sensitive Question:** Is there ever a good (or understandable) reason to withhold a tithe? God is understanding with us, knows all about unexpected financial emergencies; in scripture God's people experience emergencies such as no rain, ruined crops and livestock
  - i. Paul's bragging about Macedonians; **READ 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 5**
  - ii. **Question:** What's the key when we do face financially difficult times and still being able to give back to God what's already His? **v. 5 – They gave themselves first to the Lord.**

#### IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> Reason – Giving is Giving of Ourselves

- A. In our fallen state we'll always lean towards mindset of Cain and keep the "first and best" for ourselves and give God what's left, if anything
- B. As with every area of our life, we need God to reform our thinking (mindset) and reform our hearts
- C. Remember Jesus' response when asked whether or not a person should pay taxes - Mark 12:17 (ESV)
  - <sup>17</sup> ... **"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."** (image on that coin Jesus is holding – of Caesar)
- D. As true disciples/followers of Jesus Christ we too bear an image – image of our Savior; therefore, we *give to God that which is God's*, ourself above all else, surrendering the entirety of who we are
- E. [SLIDE] **Oswald Chambers quote:** *"I, as a child of God, belong to God. It is not a question of giving up sin, but of giving up my right to myself, my*

*natural independence, and my self-will. This is where the battle has to be fought.”*

**F. 2 Samuel 24:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> ... I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.”

**V. Close**

**A. To summarize:**

- i. God owns everything; giving back to Him acknowledges that, we're only giving back to Him what he already owns**
- ii. We give back with a “firstfruits” mindset; the “first and best” of what He's given us we give back to Him**
- iii. This “firstfruit” mindset is born out of giving first ourselves to Him – by surrendering all we are, our whole heart and every area of our life, to His Son Jesus as Lord (Master) and Savior**

**B. Repeating Biblical Truth: You can give back to God and still not love Him; but you can't love God and not give back to Him**