

AFTER GOD'S HEART

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

After God's Heart Part 10—A Life of Sacrifice

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[2 Samuel 24:1-25]

Now again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." The king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Go about now through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and register the people, that I may know the number of the people." But Joab said to the king, "Now may the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times as many as they are, while the eyes of my lord the king still see; but why does my lord the king delight in this thing?" Nevertheless, the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the commanders of the army. So Joab and the commanders of the army went out from the presence of the king to register the people of Israel. So when they had gone about through the whole land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days....and there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men. Now David's heart troubled him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, please take away the

iniquity of Your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.” When David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David’s seer, saying, “Go and speak to David, ‘Thus the Lord says, “I am offering you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I will do to you.” “Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days’ pestilence in your land? ”Then David said to Gad, “I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.” So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time, and seventy thousand men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, “It is enough! Now relax your hand!” And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking down the people, and said, “Behold, it is I who have sinned, and it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let Your hand be against me and against my father’s house.” So Gad came to David that day and said to him, “Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” Araunah looked down and saw the king and his servants crossing over toward him; and Araunah went out and bowed his face to the ground before the king. Then Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” And David said, “To buy the threshing floor from you, in order to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be held back from the people.” Araunah said to David, “Let my lord the king take and offer up what is good in his sight. Look, the oxen for the burnt offering, the threshing sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. Everything, O king, Araunah gives to the king, May the Lord your God accept you.” However, the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. David built there an altar to the Lord and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. Thus the Lord was moved by prayer for the land, and the plague was held back from Israel.

Doing the least is not the abundant life.

The abundant life is not cheap; the abundant life is on the other side of sacrifice.

***I want to choose the abundant life for me, even if it costs me something.
Nearness to God is worth everything to me!***

How to Live a Life of Sacrifice—

1. Remember.

He has been walking you step by step by step; it is anointing and appointment that has brought you to this appointment.

2. Make it personal.

Something has to rise up in us that says I won't settle for someone else's sacrifice. We need the power of God for ourselves!

3. It's bigger than you.

Imagine what it would look like when each individual believer started to burn his or her sacrifice before the Lord. We're doing this for the generations and the reaches far beyond us.

[2 Chronicles 6:10]

"The Lord has kept the promise he made. I have succeeded David, my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel.

[2 Chronicles 7:24]

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

FOR MONDAY—

1. Spend time in the Word, letting it wash over your heart and mind. If you've felt depleted or discouraged, ask God to "restore to you the joy of your salvation."
2. Present to God something that has personal value to you. Sacrifice for the sake of the abundant life.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What is something that you have given at great sacrifice?
2. What is one life experience that produced more perspective in you that led to you approaching a similar situation with more maturity?
3. If we could do the least in something, why would we want to do the most? What would that benefit us or those impacted by our actions?
4. Why do people choose pride and worldly comfort even after God redeems them? What's the way to get out? Knowing that our salvation is not at stake in this, how is God's grace sufficient for us?
5. Why do you think the transaction at the field of Araunah was significant in the life of David? What does it cost you to choose the abundant life? What are gifts that God has given you to be used for the sake of His Kingdom?
6. We may not burn animals on the altar, but what does sacrifice look like today? What are the steps to live a life of sacrifice? Why is it vital not settle for someone else's sacrifice?
7. Why do you need to know the word of God for yourself?
8. In this season, what sacrifices do you need to make to get closer to God? What sacrifices, as a church, do we need to make?