DAVID: A HEART FOR GOD

("A Man After God's Own Heart")

Part 7

5/6/92

INTRODUCTION:

*David had a ***SACRIFICIAL*** heart!

I. David Viewed God, not himself, as worthy of great sacrifice (II Sam. 23:17; I Chron. 11:18)

David's attitude in sacrifice:

A. An attitude of unworthiness (v. 16)
(David recognized that God alone deserved great sacrifice)

B. An attitude of unselfishness

1. David was willing to give up that which he really wanted (v. 15)

2. David refused to selfishly enjoy that which he didn't deserve (v. 17)

II. David Did Not Offer to God That Which Cost Him Nothing (II Sam. 24:24; I Chron. 21:24)

A. If it doesn't cost you, it isn't a real sacrifice (v. 24a)

B. If it doesn't cost you, it isn't a worthy sacrifice (v. 24b)

CONCLUSION:

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In the list of David's gallery of heroes (37 men), three stand out as prominent-
Adino the Eznite (v. 8)
Eleazar the Ahohite (v. 9)
Shammah the Hararite (v. 10)

***David had a <u>SACRIFICIAL</u> heart!**

I. David Viewed God, not himself, as worthy of great sacrifice (II Sam. 23:17; I Chron. 11:18)

David (at harvest time - summer - v. 13), with perhaps a parched tongue, a dry mouth, and sweet memories of the cool, clean, refreshing waters from a special well at Bethlehem, longs for a drink of that water (v. 15).

Evidently 3 of David's 37 brave men heard the request of their leader and out of love and loyalty courageously went to Bethlehem, somehow broke through the Philistine camp, and obtained the precious water.

These three risked their lives by breaking through the enemy lines and obtaining that water for David.

David's attitude in sacrifice:

A. An attitude of unworthiness (v. 16)
(David recognized that God alone deserved great sacrifice)

David . . . "poured it out unto the LORD" - This act does not mean that he did not appreciate it; he simply viewed himself as unworthy of it. Only the LORD deserved such a sacrifice.

David considered that only God was worthy of such sacrifice.

He didn't view himself as worthy of such sacrifice.

He didn't view the world as revolving around him (though he would be the greatest human king to ever reign).

Sacrifice is giving to God what you view yourself as unworthy of.

B. An attitude of unselfishness

1. David was willing to give up that which he really wanted (v. 15)

V. 15 - "David longed" = he had an intense craving, an insatiable desire; yet he surrendered this to God.

2. David refused to selfishly enjoy that which he didn't deserve (v. 17)

"Is not this the blood..." - Since the three men could have been killed and their blood spilled, just for water, David considered the water to be the equivalent of those men's blood. To drink such water would be [to David] like drinking blood. A thing which the Law forbade - Lev. 17:10.

Because of how the water was obtained, it was too valuable for David to drink; that water represented the blood of those 3 men.

David felt he could not drink the water that the brave warriors brought him "because it seemed to him as though it were the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives. . . It was too precious a draft for him, when men's lives had hazarded for it" (Spurgeon).

ILLUS: The Godless people in America who demonstrate ungratefulness and abuse the liberty in America, by living selfishly when many gave their lives and shed their blood for our freedom.

II. David Did Not Offer to God That Which Cost Him Nothing (II Sam. 24:24; I Chron. 21:24)

V. 22

The reason why Araunah is willing to give the provisions for sacrifice to David was because he also had seen the death angel along with his four sons (I Chron. 21:20).

A. If it doesn't cost you, it isn't a real sacrifice (v. 24a)

"At a price" = David wanted to pay the "full price" (I Chron. 21:22, 24).

David did not want to offer to God "discounted" burnt offerings.

Giving isn't sacrificial giving unless after you have given it, your wealth is substantially affected. Don't measure your gift by what you give, but by what you have left over.

EX: The Pharisees gave out of their abundance, but the poor widow gave her last 2 mites (Mk. 12:41-44).

A gift is not measured by how much is given, but by how much you have to give. It's not measured by how much it is, but by how much it is to you.

If we give God our time when we have time, have we sacrificed any time for God? No.

If we give God our effort when we feet strong and feel like laboring, have we sacrificed any effort for God? No.

If we give God our money when we have enough left over to provide our wants, have we sacrificed any money for God? No.

Note: What God wants above all the things you give Him is YOU! (Rom. 12:1-2)

Just as a father cannot substitute his money for his presence in his children's lives, so nothing you give to god can satisfy Him if you are withholding yourself.

Real sacrifice gives until it hurts.

No cost - no real sacrifice.

B. If it doesn't cost you, it isn't a worthy sacrifice (v. 24b)

"The Lord my God" - NOTE: David's emphasis, calling the Lord his God. David's God was worth his greatest sacrifice.

David not only bought the threshing floor and the oxen for 40 shekels of silver (1 1/4 lbs.), but he also bought the entire lot of land that surrounded the threshing floor for 600 shekels of gold (15 lbs.) (I Chron. 21:25).

This threshing floor was north of David's city. It was the exact location where Abraham had offered Isaac (Mount Moriah - Gen. 22:2), and the same spot where Solomon constructed the Temple (I Chron. 22:1, 2; II Chron. 3:1)

CONCLUSION:

God deserves our very best! (SEE: How Israel's priests offered God their garbage - Mal. 1:6-14).

Not the left-overs, but the "cream of the crop"! The first fruits! The prime choice!

What you give to God reveals your heart for God.