

The Cost of Nothing

2 Samuel 24 18 On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." 19 So David went up, as the Lord had commanded through Gad. 20 When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground. 21 Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped."

22 Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever he wishes and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood. 23 Your Majesty, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the Lord your God accept you." 24 But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them. 25 David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the Lord answered his prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

David made a huge mistake. He was responsible for 70000 dead men.

- But he listened to God, was repentant and obedient.

God called him to build an altar.

- An altar that would become a temple.

David was offered the location of the altar/temple for free.

- Some would call that favour.
- But David refused to let his obedience and sacrifice cost him nothing.

Because there is a cost to paying nothing. When it comes to obedience faithfulness, sacrifice.

That cost is in the value you place on something.

- In this case it was the value David placed on his relationship with God.
- Obedience, faithfulness, sacrifice are relational words.
 - My deepest relationships are the ones that have cost me the most in the past. The ones I would pay the most for in the future.

The cost of nothing is to replace

- Conviction with convenience - walking alongside or carrying someone?

- Convenience is nice but conviction changes the world
- Relationship with rejection
 - All relationship is intentional investment. Even if it takes a long time.
 - This is important because it's key to engaging people
 - It's why I have a bbq every week at my house. It's why I invested 9 years in a friend (Manisha)
- Worship with waywardness
 - Altars aren't primarily places of sacrifice, but sacrificial worship.
 - Human are addicted to worship, designed for it. Designed for the worship of God.
 - If we don't worship God we betray our very nature and lose our way.
 - The cost of nothing is purposelessness!

So why this talk about cost and sacrifice and building?

- It's a new year and you will build something this year.
- You will build a place of worship and sacrifice this year
- It will be an altar to Jesus or it will be an altar to someone or something else
- I want you to build something in your life, with your life, that cost you something.
 - I want you to chose conviction, relationship and worship.

So why this talk about cost and sacrifice and building?

- We're about to do a week of prayer, fasting and consecration.
- Maybe it's just me but in times past I've tried to work out what the least amount of fasting I could do to get away with being spiritual.
 - I'm not thinking that way for this week coming up.
 - I want to pay the price to pray, to fast and to consecrate myself, (thoughts attitudes words actions plans and dreams to God)
 - Will you do something you've never done before to see something you never seen before?

Conclusion

So why this talk about cost and sacrifice and building?

- Every Nation Melbourne will build an altar this year

- What kind of altar we build will depend on what price we are willing to pay.
- I'm not talking about money. I'm talking about what really matters to God - our relationship with him and our relationships with each other.

I want you to build something in your life, with your life, that cost you something.

- I want you to chose conviction, relationship and worship.

More than that.

I need you to build something in your life, with your life, that cost you something.

- I need you to chose conviction, relationship and worship.
- This city needs you to chose to pay something.
- You need you to chose to pay something.