

I Will Not Offer That Which Costs Me Nothing

Text: 2 Samuel 24:21-24

Introduction:

1. In our text we see that David had a need set before him. When attempting to fulfill the need he set forth a principle it would do each of us good to realize and live... "neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (24)
2. In that verse we learn the value of self sacrifice ... a characteristic sometimes lost in today's society.
3. Jesus emphasized this same quality in Luke 9:23-25 where he challenged those who would follow Him to "deny himself" and be ready to "lose his life for My sake." *Imagine what society would be like if we all lived such lives!*

Discussion:

I. Some Common Ideas That Are Foreign To Self Sacrifice

1. "I will gladly give anything ... *as long as I don't really need it!*" (Cf. Matthew 19:16-22)
2. "I will gladly give anything ... *unless I don't really trust God!*" (Matthew 6:33)
3. "*I'm not going to give ... let others take care of themselves!*" (John 13:35; Galatians 6:7-10)

II. Some Examples of Self Sacrifice (and the areas in which such is needed)

1. *In the Family*
 - (1) *Noah ... A Self Sacrificing Father* (cf. Genesis 6:5-6; 2 Peter 2:5; Genesis 6:22 — 1 Peter 3:21)
 - (2) *Lois and Eunice ... Self Sacrificing Mothers* (cf. 2 Timothy 1:5; Acts 16:1)
2. *In the Church*
 - (1) *Paul ... A Christian willing to sacrifice all so the cause of Christ could be furthered* (cf. 2 Tim. 1:12; Phil. 3:4-17; 1 Cor. 11:1; Galatians 2:20)
 - (2) *Stephen ... A Christian willing to die rather than compromise truth* (cf. Acts 6:8-7:60)
3. *THE Example ... Jesus Christ* (cf. Philippians 2:5-8; Romans 5:9)

Conclusion:

You and I have not been called on to die for Jesus. We have not been thrown into prison because of our faith. But He does ask you to live a self sacrificing life for Him — in the family, in the church, in society. Will you tell Him you are too busy to do so "this week?"