

1 Chronicles 21:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.

Analysis

David's response to Araunah's offer to give the threshing floor free: 'And king David said to Ornan, Nay; but I will verily buy it for the full price: for I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost.' This principle - refusing to offer God what costs nothing - demonstrates that acceptable worship requires sacrifice. David rejected the easy path of accepting a gift, insisting on paying full price. This teaches that genuine worship is costly, not convenient. The threshing floor would become the temple site, making this purchase foundational to Israel's worship. Christ supremely embodied this principle, offering His life at infinite cost for our salvation.

Historical Context

The threshing floor purchase (c. 975 BCE) followed the plague that killed 70,000 Israelites (21:14). David's willingness to pay full price despite divine permission to stop the plague showed his commitment to proper atonement and worship, establishing the future temple location.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'free' shortcuts in worship or service are you tempted to take rather than offering God costly devotion?
2. How does David's principle challenge your giving - of time, resources, and energy - to God's work?

Interlinear Text

אָקֹנָה	כִּי	לֹא	לְאֹרְנָן	דָּוִד	הֶמָּלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
Nay but I will verily			to Ornan	David	And king	said
H7069	H3588	H3808	H771	H1732	H4428	H559
אֲשֶׁר	אֶשָּׂא	לֹא	כִּי	מִלֵּא	בְּכֶסֶף	אָקֹנָה
for I will not take				it for the full	price	Nay but I will verily
H834	H5375	H3808	H3588	H4392	H3701	H7069
חִנָּם:	עֹלֹת	הַ	וְהַעֲלֹת	לִיהוָה	הַ	לֵב
without cost	burnt offerings		nor offer	that which is thine for the LORD		
H2600	H5930		H5927	H3068		H0