

A Compromised Heart

2 SAMUEL 24

Lean In

1. Did your parents ever make you “choose your consequences”? What difficult choice do you remember making?

Look Down

Read 2 Samuel 24

2. What prompted David's request to take a census (vv.1-2)?
 - a. God's anger
 - b. Satan's ruse (see 2 Chronicles 21:1)
 - c. David's pride
 - d. David's insecurities
 - e. Some external threat
3. As for the census itself (vv.5-9), what's involved in terms of time, money and manpower?
4. In verse 10, there is a growth point for David. How does his response in this situation compare with his response to the sin with Bathsheba? Why is David so conscience-stricken (v.10)? Is taking a census always wrong, sinful or a foolish waste of human resources (see Numbers 1:2-3; 26:2-4)?
5. Why were the people punished for something David ordered? What does this teach us about the effects of our sins? Is God working at cross purposes when he grieves over the punishment inflicted on Israel by his own angel (v.16)?
6. What came first: repentance or sacrifices? Why is this significant?
7. When, where and why is David commanded to build an altar (v.18)? What is significant about that place (see v.16)? (For further significance of that place, see also 2 Chronicles 3:1)
8. David might have expropriated Araunah's property, or paid a mere pittance for it, as he was king (see 1 Sam 8:14). But what does David do and why (v.24)? What results do the sacrifices bring (v.25)?
9. God's mercy is seen when the plague stopped (the whole nation could have perished). When was the plague held back (24:25)? What does this instruct us about prayer during difficult times?

Look Out

10. Share an example where pride caused somebody to make a wrong decision?

Look In

11. Have you lost your spiritual vitality and fresh communion with Jesus? How will you keep your relationship with Him fresh?
11. In what areas of your life are you tempted to lean upon the strength of your superior assets rather than humbly depending on God?
12. David declares that he will not sacrifice animals that cost him nothing in 2 Samuel 24:24. Then, after buying the field that later becomes the land for the temple, he makes a sacrificial gift for building the temple (1 Chronicles 29:1-5). How would you describe the kind of giving that costs you something?