

Donna's Devotional

What Does It Cost?

*I will not take that which is thine for the LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without cost
(1 Chronicles 21:24)*

In this story David wanted to build an altar to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. But he needed a place to do so. Ornan offered to give David not only land, but the oxen, and the instruments needed to make the offering to the Lord. David declined Ornan's offer and stated that the offering must cost himself something.

This story prompted me to think about what I do for the Lord: how much does it really cost me? The hymn writer wrote, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe." It is not a question of how much we owe the Lord, but what we are willing to sacrifice for Him. It is good to dedicate our life to the Lord. But what about now? What are we offering to Him that costs us something?

For some of us, it may be a financial sacrifice, for others it may be a sacrifice of time or belongings. For all of us, it should be the sacrifice of self. Are we willing to give up fame, fortune, friends, and family, for the Lord? Does it cost us something to attend church? Are we willing to witness to our neighbors—after all, it takes time and they may think we are odd. Are we willing to set aside something we want to do to spend time with the Lord in prayer and Bible study?

David desired to give an offering to the Lord—an offering that cost him something. He did not offer excuses. He gave freely to the Lord.

I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD, for it is good. Psalm 54:6.