

# In Whom Do You Trust?

## As We Turn to 1 Chronicles 21, You Should Know That...

- The story of David in 2 Samuel is more of a personal story.
  - *Amnon, Tamar, Absalom* —
  - *David flees Jerusalem* —
  - *Absalom dies and David mourns his personal losses*
  - *More blood, battles, death and sorrow.*
- And David is now in his old age.

## The Sin and Confrontation (1 Chronicles 21:1-7)

- David was in a spiritual position to fall to temptation.
- This temptation involved the sin of pride.

*(Remember Satan's temptations of Jesus?)*

*"For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world."*  
- 1 John 2:16

- Counting the number of Israelites, particularly fighting men, showed that David trusted more in mankind than in God.
 

*"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."*  
- Psalm 20:7
- Even though a friend encouraged him to rescind this command, David sinned. This reminds us that each person is ultimately responsible for his own sin.
- This act of David was repulsive to Joab and to God.
 

*Joab should have refused David on this one!*
- God punished all of Israel for David's sin.
 

*"This command was also evil in the sight of God; so He punished Israel."* - 1 Chr. 21:7

## The Confession (1 Chronicles 21:8-13)

- David realized the seriousness of his sin much too late and he pleads with God to remove his guilt/consequences.
- God allowed David to choose his consequences:
  1. Three years of famine.
  2. Three months of being defeated by enemies.
  3. Three days of the "sword of the Lord."

- David refuses to choose one of these but he asked that the second option be eliminated because at least God shows mercy.

## The Consequences (1 Chronicles 21:14-17)

- A plague caused 70,000 men to die. *Why innocent people?*
- God sent an angel to destroy His city but then relents.
- The angel stood above the city of Jerusalem.
- David and the leaders prayed and pleaded for mercy. David asked that he and his family alone face the consequences of his sin.
 

*"What have these people done to deserve this?"*

## The Commitment and Continuation (1 Chronicles 21:18-30)

- David was told to go up to the "threshing floor" and build an altar.
- Ornan (Araunah) and his sons were threshing wheat when the angel appeared and the four sons were afraid, so they hid.
- Ornan, probably out of fear and respect, offered the property to David at no cost.
- David said that he wanted to pay full price because there must be a "cost or price" involved when following the Lord.
- The Lord lights the fire on the altar and accepts David's sacrifice.
- So the angel put his sword of punishment in its sheath.
- David could not go to the tabernacle in Gibeah because he feared the angel of the Lord.
- Because of this story, David determined that the Temple of God and the Altar of God should be placed on this site.



*"Then David said, 'The house of the LORD God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel.'*"  
- 1 Chronicles 22:1

## Lessons

1. Do you place your trust fully in the Lord? Are you trusting in anything else above the Lord?
2. Do you have a friend (a Joab) in your life who will ask you the hard questions?
3. Are you willing to "pay the price" to honour the Lord?

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- This temptation involved the sin of \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(Remember Satan's temptations of Jesus?)*  
*"For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world."*  
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*"Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God."*  
- Psalm 20:7
- Even though a friend encouraged him to \_\_\_\_\_ this command, David sinned. This reminds us that each person is ultimately responsible for his own sin.
- This act of David was \_\_\_\_\_ to Joab and to God.  
*Joab should have refused David on this one!*
- God punished all of \_\_\_\_\_ for David's sin.  
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3. Are you willing to "pay the price" to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord?

## For Further Discussion In Whom Do You Trust?

### Let's Review

#### What Do We Learn About Where We Place Our Trust?

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3. Are you willing to “Pay the Price” to honour the Lord?

#### Consider and Discuss the Following:

1. What did you learn from this story of David and the “threshing floor”? What puzzled you?
2. What surprises you about the fact that David doesn't fully trust the Lord here? Do you think it has to do with age, position, or what?
3. If you could ask God one question about this story, what would it be and why?
4. How do you show your trust in God? Do others see it in your life by the way you live?
5. Who is your “Joab”? Who is the person in your life that will ask the tough questions? If you don't have this person, who could it be? Will you follow through now and ask this person?
6. What “price” do you pay to worship and honour God? Have you thought about that before? Although God's grace is a free gift to us, there is always a price in following Jesus.

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