

The Cost For Being The Boss In Gods Hands

2 Samuel 24

Pray

The title of this message is **the cost for being the boss**.

- everyone wants to be the boss.
 - Guys want to be *the Boss man* & Women want to be *the boss lady*!
 - But There's a cost for being in charge, the leader, the head honcho.
 - My grandma would call me **the chief macho**
 - But few are willing to pay the price for being in charge.

In this chapter, we will see the cost David paid for being the boss.

there are three words that sum up the whole book of 2 Samuel.

- Davids **Triumphs, transgressions & troubles**.

David's Triumphs, chapters 1-10. David's transgressions, chapter 11-12.

- But then you have David's troubles from chapter 13-24.

The theme of trouble in chapter 24 continues as we will see David's troubles & Sin,

- And then we will see Gods judgment & end with Gods mercy extended to David
 - And as I studied this last chapter of this book
 - I'm really grateful that **God has a big eraser...**

And even though David & we fail = God is so quick to erase, forgive and restore.

1 John 1:9

We are going to look at 3 things in Ch. 24

- The first section involves, **numbering the people by David** in verses 1-9.

1 Again the anger of the Lord was aroused against Israel, and He moved David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." ² So the king said to Joab the commander of the army who was with him, "Now go throughout all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and count the people, that I may know the number of the people." ³ And Joab said to the king, "Now may the Lord your God add to the people a hundred times more than there are, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king desire this thing?" ⁴ Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab and against the captains of the army. Therefore Joab and the captains of the army went out from the presence of the king to count the people of Israel. ⁵ And they crossed over the Jordan and camped in Aroer, on the right side of the town which is in the midst of the ravine of Gad, and toward Jazer. ⁶ Then they came to Gilead and to the land of Tahtim Hodshi; they came to Dan Jaan and around to Sidon; ⁷ and they came to the stronghold of Tyre and to all the cities of the Hivites and the Canaanites. Then they went out to South Judah as far as Beersheba. ⁸ So when they had gone through all the land, they came to Jerusalem at the end of nine months and twenty days. ⁹ Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to the king. And there were in Israel eight hundred thousand valiant men who drew the sword, and the men of Judah were five hundred thousand men.

on a military basis, David decides, I better take a census of the whole country

- to find out what my strength is militarily.

David took this census because of his own Pride

- I want to know how many people I got
 - how strong are we & he wasn't trusting in God at this moment
 - he was trusting in his numbers

Joab his general knew this was a bad idea & warns him but David didn't answer

I love what the great Bible teacher Warren Wisby said about these verses.

- He says, **Sometimes God's greatest judgment is simply to let us have our own way.**

1 Chronicles 21:1 says that **Satan was the one who moved David to number the people.**

- God permitted Satan to tempt David to number the people

The Hebrew word used here for **moved** means to entice, to allure, to instigate, to mislead.

- which shows us that it was Satan who tempted David to do this.
 - However, God allowed it to take place.
 - Its what happened in the book of Job.

In **James 1:13-14** says, **"Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God. For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he himself tempt anyone." "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away of his own desires and enticed."**

- the real culprit was Satan tempting David pumping him up with pride
 - **This is what all leaders need to beware of & keep there eyes on their pride**

I believe David did this to boast in his military, in his might

- instead of trusting in Gods strength.

It reminds me of armies flexing their muscles by doing a military parade

Its good to beware of what lust Satan will use to get us to sin against God.

- There are 3 areas of lust we battle. **The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes,**
 - **and the pride of life.**

We must constantly beware of this b/c many people get moved by Satan

- with one of these lust to rebel against God & make bad decisions

Satan had the lust for power & being in charge = Pride filled his heart

- He wanted to exalt himself above God & take his throne & be like God
- it started with him in heaven leading the worship for God
 - and all of a sudden he's like, I should be getting some of this.

And then we see the great **I wills** of Satan in **Isaiah 14:12-14**,

- he said, I will do this. I will do that.
 - And God said, "Oh, no you won't. You got to get out of here."
 - God Gave him the old boot out of heaven

The root cause of this is that David was not trusting the Lord. He's trusting in his strength

- he's going to count his military so that he can trust in the strength of his army

- rather than in the strength of his God. And that is always a mistake.
 - It would be like us, instead of trusting the Lord,
 - you're trusting your bank account.
 - You're trusting your status at work.

when the battles come in our lives, we too have a choice to make.

- We can try to fight it in our own strength and in our own power,
 - or we can rely upon the Lord.
- Its best to just trust that God's going to take care of it in his time and in his way.

It seems like we're always back to **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

they go all throughout the land and they count a total of 1.3 million fighting men

- among the 12 tribes and people estimate the total population of Israel
 - was around 5-6 million which is a big population

it shows how much Israel had been blessed in the days of David

Well, let's come to a 2nd matter. We said there were 3.

- The 2nd section involves **the confession & consequence of sin from David**,
 - in verses 10 through 17.

¹⁰ And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

So David came to his senses, he was convicted by his sin,

- He knew what he did was wrong, that he shouldn't have done it.
 - So he confessed his sin and he repented of his sin.

I love this about David. It's an admirable quality.

- David makes things right with God when he blows it.

Isn't it interesting that Satan whispers to us and says, you ought to do this.

- If you do this, you're going to feel so fulfilled & satisfied. It'll bring you such pleasure. And then as soon as you do it, it doesn't bring u the satisfaction & pleasure u thought it would
- It actually leaves you thirstier, hungrier, worse off than before

David knew this was the wrong thing to do and he says I sinned

here we see one of the characteristics of what made David a great man of god

- and it was his humility in how quick David is to confess his sin that's a real hallmark of true humility & a great leader!

- if someone is truly humble they will be quick to see that they're wrong
 - and when they do see that they're wrong
 - they don't make excuses for it
 - there's no buts in their justification for it
 - they have the kind of attitude that David had

○ I have sinned greatly in what I have done
there's no trying to explain it or trying to say somebody else was responsible for it

the bible says **James 4:6** that **god resists the proud but gives grace to the humble**

Satan loves to entice us to sin, then condemns us when we take the bait.

- He makes the bait so alluring = **We took the youth fishing & I used the spinner**
 - **But I had worms & power bait and all the goods**
- So Satan knows what we like. So, he puts that on the hook.

And then the lust within us is drawn toward it. And then when we take the bait,

- Then Satan, he condemns us. He laughs at us and condemns us.
- Look, you're on the hook again.

However, the other side of the coin is God's conviction pricked David's heart.

- **Condemnation tells us that we have blown it too much & draws us away from God.**
 - **But conviction from the Holy Spirit tells us to run to God as fast as you can.**
 - What did David do? He went to God and & prayed,

numbering God's people fed his pride and made him independent of God.

- This is always Satan's plans for us to tempt us to act independently of God

This is what Satan did to Adam and Eve, In **Genesis 3:5**, he says, "**God knows in the day you eat of the tree, you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**"

- act independently of God and enjoy the fruit

Any idea that tells us to act independently of God & His Word is an idea from Satan

- anything that takes us away from God's word, will, & God's ways
 - are the movings by Satan himself. Its demonic!

Gods will is found in Gods Word = **That's why I say every sermon OPEN YOUR BIBLES to...!**

¹¹ Now when David arose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, ¹² "Go and tell David, 'Thus says the Lord: "I offer you three things; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do it to you." ' " ¹³ So Gad came to David and told him; and he said to him, "Shall seven years of famine come to you in your land? Or shall you flee three months before your enemies, while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' plague in your land? Now consider and see what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

David, you've got three choices. It can be years, it can be months, it can be days.

- the first choice was seven years of famine
- the second choice was three months of fleeing before your enemies
- the third choice was three days of plague

He has 3 options in front of him door number 1, 2 or 3? which one do you want?

this is very interesting as I can't think of another place in the scriptures

- where God basically says here's a menu to pick your punishment!
 - I think it shows us how God gives us a free will to make choices!

I hope that you've made the greatest choice of all to surrender your life to Jesus

- **And allow him to convert you & transform you into a new creation!**
 - **At our pumpkin party we taught the kids how God transforms us!**

David makes his choice in vs. 14

¹⁴ And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁵ So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel from the morning till the appointed time. From Dan to Beersheba seventy thousand men of the people died.

He said, "Please don't let me fall into the hands of man."

- He was distressed at the thought of this. As mankind can be cruel & heartless
 - There are some terrible human beings

I love how he says "Let me fall into the Hand of God as His mercies are great."

- And that is absolutely the safest place for us to be in god's hands
- , **Ephesians 2:4** says, **God is rich in mercy.**

David chose the 3day plague and 70,000 people died. That's heavy!

- **This is an example of the painful cost for being the boss.**
 - Our actions affect everyone

It cost David dearly. 70,000 people died.

- It's a warning to keep our eyes on the Lord because when we don't,
 - everyone around us will feel the pain.

¹⁶ And when the ^[4]angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. ¹⁷ Then David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel who was striking the people, and said, "Surely I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

The angel of the Lord who was sent to carry out this plague was going to work

- and it broke God's heart in verse 16

and he told the angel, "It is enough. restrain your hand.

- This amazes me about God.

God has to punish sin. Yes, but it breaks his heart. **God desires none to perish**

- God's heart was broken when he was seeing his people being destroyed.
 - this is why Jesus wept in John 11:35.

He wept because he sees what sin has done to mankind.

- The wages of sin is death = it destroys. It kills. And Jesus wept. It broke his heart.

David's heart was broken as well. As he said in verse 17, "Lord, I was the one who sinned, but these sheep, what have they done?"

- But they were not innocent because verse one said that the Lord's anger
 - Was aroused against Israel also.

I see an interesting typology. The shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep.

- Yes, David sinned. But here, like Jesus, he is willing to suffer & even die for the sheep, This is another great characteristic of David that made him a great man of god

- was his spirit of sacrifice

this is a huge mark of all great Leaders & Bosses

- they are willing to step forward and say i will pay the price

A captain will go down with the ship!

- i'll lay my life down that others may be spared

David was simply walking in the footsteps of His God

- as Jesus went to the cross

Well number 3 and finally, The 3rd and final section involves

- **worshipping the Lord by David**, Look at verses 18 through 25.

¹⁸ And Gad came that day to David and said to him, "Go up, erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite." ¹⁹ So David, according to the word of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded. ²⁰ Now Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming toward him. So Araunah went out and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. ²¹ Then Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" And David said, "To buy the threshing floor from you, to build an altar to the Lord, that the plague may be withdrawn from the people." ²² Now Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take and offer up whatever seems good to him. Look, here are oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing implements and the yokes of the oxen for wood." ²³ All these, O king, Araunah has given to the king." And Araunah said to the king, "May the Lord your God accept you." ²⁴ Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; **nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing.**" So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

David is instructed to build an altar on this piece of land & altars are places of worship

- so here we see a real estate transaction as David decides to buy the land

there's a couple notable things to consider about this land

- first of all it's a piece of land with **great history**

- first chronicles tells us that this land was actually

- the same place where Abraham offered Isaac

- it also tells us that this piece of land had **a great future**

- because it was on the same general hill that the temple would be built later

- and that Jesus would be offered on the cross as a perfect sacrifice

- it all happened on this great hill of mount Moriah

David sets out to worship the Lord, to build an altar and offer sacrifices to the Lord.

- This guy was willing to give it all to King David for free, it's yours. Take it.

- but David said, no I cant do that, I will buy it from you...

- I won't offer anything to the Lord **with that which cost me nothing**

And this shows us the principle that worshipping the Lord is linked to what we give

- the Lord of our time, our talents & treasure,

It's easy to give out of our abundance when we have a lot of time, talent, & treasure.

- But what about when we don't? In Mark 12:41-44,
 - Jesus was there in the temple area
 - watching how people gave money to God, not how much,
 - but how they gave it.
 - Were they giving so everyone can see? Or were they giving it secretly?
 - But then he goes on to say that the rich put in much,
 - but then a widow came and she put in too mites,
 - and Jesus turns to the disciples.

He said, assuredly I say to you that this poor widow put in more than all the rest together,

- because they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty,
 - she put in all that she had. It cost her everything a true act of worship!

Pastor Chuck used to say, *it's not how much do I give to the Lord, but how much do I dare hold back for myself?*

- Many people say I just want to do as least as possible
 - what's the requirements, the bear minimum

We so often gravitate towards the minimum amount of time we spend with the lord
i know i need to be your servant what's the easiest way possible I can do it?

○ Our lack of worship & sacrifice often shows up in our giving & pocket books...
we should be giving to God a tithe of 10% from our financial resources.

- god is a giving god he's the greatest giver in all the universe
 - and that's the god we serve
- And if you don't want to be a giver = if your heart is stubbornly set against it
It shows your heart is not in the right place because the god we serve is a giving god
- he's the greatest giver and those who follow him should be givers also
 - We give because God gave first! **John 3:16**

the bible says that in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7** says **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

The word "tithe" literally means tenth or 10%. Tithing ten percent of your income,

- **A tithe is an act of worship.**
- if you ever feel pressure to give don't do it! God doesn't need your money, He wants your heart.
- **If you don't give cheerfully and joyfully you miss the point.**
 - **All that we have, or hope to have, comes from God.**

The Bible says that tithing is a reminder that God is the supplier of everything.

- **It teaches us to always put God first in our lives. God is a giver and God is generous**
 - **and He wants us to be generous. Ever time we give we become more like Jesus.**
 - **Everytime we give we break the grip of materialism in our life.**
 - **And everytime we give our heart grows bigger.**

- Everything we have is a gift from God.

People say I work hard for my money, sure you do! But who gave you the ability to work Hard.

- Who gave you your mind, hands and life? Who gave you the breath you have?

Who gave you the opportunities?

- Duet. 8:18 says **it is God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.**
 - It all comes from God.

God says put me to the test. bring me your tithe 10% and I will pour out a blessing on your life.

I don't look of tithing as I cant believe it is 10%, I think of it as how I get to keep 90%!

- God is so generous! Imagine if someone gives you a piece of gum
 - and you get to keep 90% of the piece and they only get 10%!
 - Your definatly getting the better part of the deal!

A lot of us tip more than we give God and He has given His whole life to serve us and bless us!

Tithing is a statement of 3 things

#1. Statement of gratitude = God I wouldn't have anything without you

#2. Statement of priority = God I want to prove your 1st in my life so I am giving you the first part of my money

#3. It's a statement of faith = God I believe you will keep your promise. If I put you first, you will take care of all my needs.

In Malachi 3:10, God says "**Go ahead. I dare you. See if you can out-give me.**"

Many people misunderstand the habit of tithing and giving.

- The truth is tithing is not for God's benefit, giving is for our benefit.
 - Its to teach me to trust God & put God first in your life.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,

That there may be food in My house,

And try Me now in this,"

Says the Lord of hosts,

"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven

And pour out for you such blessing

That there will not be room enough to receive it.

David says if it didn't cost me nothing it's not sacrifice & true worship!

- whatever we are making sacrifices for in our life that's a big sign that's our god if you will not sacrifice things in your life unto the lord
 - then it shows he's not your god

one old commentator named Adam Clark says **he who has a religion that costs him nothing has a religion that is worth nothing.**

The beautiful irony in giving sacrificially to God is

- **you can't give to god without him giving back to you!**
 - it costs us initially because we lay it out as a sacrifice
 - but god will bless you all the more in return

Jesus promised in Mk. 10 that anybody who gives up anything for the sake of his kingdom

- **will be rewarded a hundredfold both in this life and in the life to come**
 - that's straight from the mouth of Jesus

you cannot out give God without him giving you far more in return

- it's an absolute spiritual law & many people are missing out

²⁵ And David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the Lord heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

The burnt offering was a consecration offering saying

- "I'm setting myself apart for God's use."

this is good to do each morning that God allows for your eyes to open up.

- **To say Thank you God for giving me another day = here I am send me!**
 - This is so important because God really wants to use us.
 - But he will not work through unclean vessels.

And it's a matter of us consecrating ourselves to God

- and saying, **"Oh God, search our hearts."**

David said in **Psalms 139:23-24**, **"Search me and know me and see if there's any wicked way in me and lead me to the way everlasting."**

We need cleansing from sin, bitterness, hatred, anger & the resentment we have

- **and we can't consecrate ourselves with all that stuff in our hearts.**
 - **God wants us to lay that stuff at his feet.**

D.L. Moody **"The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man."**

don't leave without doing some business with God.

The peace offering was saying, " now that your sin is dealt with,

- you now have peace with God,

Do you have peace with God today?

many people fail to realize that there's the peace of God and there's peace with God.

- Peace with God comes when we repent of our sins
 - and accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. We have peace with God.

- But then there's the peace of God that you experience when you're not worrying.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

- There are many Christians that have peace with God,
 - but they don't have the peace of God
 - because their letting worry & anxiety to flood & control their life.

And the Lord wants you to experience his peace.

- the prince of peace = wants you to be at peace!

And the way we will experience his peace, is when we cast our cares upon him in prayer

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- Cast it on the Lord. We so often worry and freak out but God wants us to have peace.

Pray, Share Gospel & Communion