

A Gift of Sacrifice

Joel Bradberry

“...I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” (1 Chronicles 21:24)

At its core, the practice of re-gifting is pragmatic yet somewhat deceitful. Gifts are costly and involve sacrifice. David understood that. Upon David’s repentance of his self-serving census, God stayed His death angel’s hand and commanded David to purchase Ornan’s threshing floor and raise an altar there. God had big plans for Jerusalem.

Ornan freely offered his threshing floor to David — along with oxen to sacrifice and wood to burn. David declined; but, instead, paid nearly \$500,000 in gold (current value) for the site. David refused to re-gift. He would not give to God that which cost him nothing. He understood that acceptable offerings to God were costly, bloody, unblemished, and offered by those with broken and contrite hearts (Psalm 51).

This threshing floor most likely had been the spot where God provided a ram substitute for Isaac and would be the future site of Solomon’s Temple. All that happened there was pointing to the Lord Jesus. While the blood of bulls and rams covered sin temporarily, the blood of Jesus made full payment for sin. Jesus’ once-for-all atoning sacrifice was completely acceptable to God the Father as payment for sin. Jesus’ resurrection is proof.

None of us can offer sacrifices for our sin sufficient to satisfy God’s righteous demands. Thankfully Jesus did. Those who call on Jesus with broken and contrite hearts are in Christ, received by the Father, and adopted into the very family of God.

