

David Counts the Fighting Men - 2 Samuel 24:1-25

Topics: Angels, Anger, Authority, Choices, Confession, Conscience, Consequences, Disagreements, Family, Foolishness, Gifts, Guilt, Mercy, Prayer, Punishment, Questions, Results, Sacrifice, Sin, Worship

Open It

- * 1. What modern day status symbols do we regard as “the more the better”?
- 2. What are some examples of the followers’ suffering when the leader does something wrong?

Explore It

- * 3. How did God use David to punish Israel? (24:1)
- 4. What did the king want his commanders to find out for him? (24:2)
- * 5. Who objected to David’s plan and tried to dissuade him? (24:3)
- 6. Whose opinion prevailed as to what should be done? (24:4)
- 7. How long did it take for the commanders to go throughout the land counting the fighting men? (24:8)
- 8. How many fighting men did David have in Israel and Judah? (24:9)
- * 9. What did David realize after the census was finished? (24:10)
- 10. What was David’s prayer when he realized his error? (24:10)
- 11. What did God instruct the prophet Gad to ask David? (24:11-12)
- 12. What choice did Gad present to David? (24:13)
- 13. What punishment did David choose from the three options God put before him? (24:14)
- 14. How many people died in the plague? (24:15)
- 15. Where was the angel of death when God instructed him to stop? (24:16)
- 16. What was David’s confession when he saw what was happening to Israel? (24:17)
- 17. What did Gad instruct David to do as part of ending the plague? (24:18)
- 18. What was Araunah’s response when David asked to buy the threshing floor in order to build an altar? (24:19-23)
- 19. Why did David insist on paying for all of the items for the sacrifice? (24:24)
- 20. What did God do for David and Israel when all of these actions were completed? (24:25)

Get It

- * 21. What does it mean that God “incited” David against Israel when God was angry with Israel?
- * 22. Why was it wrong for David to want to count his fighting men?
- 23. How did David demonstrate his knowledge of God by the choice he made of the means of punishment?
- 24. How does God feel when He sees the suffering we bring on ourselves through our sin?
- 25. Why is a “cheap” sacrifice inappropriate to offer to the living God?
- 26. What sort of offering does God find acceptable from us today?
- 27. What does it mean to offer sacrifices to God today?
- 28. How can we make sure that the things we offer to God have not cost us nothing?

Apply It

- * 29. What temptation to count or calculate the value of your blessings can you resist by faith?
- 30. What can you offer to God that is valuable or important (not cheap)? How?