

Giving God Nothing!

by Wayne Goff

Many Christians would be appalled if someone accused them of giving God nothing. However, that is exactly what **we all may unknowingly** do from time to time. Let me give you some examples:

1. When we give God the “leftovers” of our money, having paid all of our bills first, then we have essentially given God nothing. Giving out of convenience, haphazardly, and with little thought is the equivalent of nothing. Read **Mark 12:41-44**
2. Attending Bible class and worship *only when it is convenient* amounts to giving God nothing. A little bit of a bad taste in our mouth, a minor stomach ache, a few rain clouds on the horizon — and some brethren just can’t make it to the building! The real problem is a lack of love for the Lord. Read **Malachi 1:13**
3. Going through the motions in worship, without the heart, is giving God nothing. God is Spirit and He dwells within the community of believers through the spirit. If your spirit is missing, then there is no fellowship with God. Read **Ephesians 2:22**
4. Donating things to the church which you don’t want or need in your own house may be a good idea when brethren are destitute, but it can also become an insult to God when we are giving Him essentially nothing. It reflects a lack of respect and holiness for God. Read **Malachi 1:8**
5. Coming to Bible Class without any prior study or preparation amounts to giving God nothing. It is discouraging to the teacher, disappointing to other members, and a sign of indifference toward God. God’s holy Word deserves better than that — we should not turn a deaf ear to His message for us! Read **Matthew 13:15**
6. Making no personal application from the Scriptures preached in a sermon, or taught in a Bible class equals nothing to God. Read **Ezekiel 33:30-32**

David’s Contribution

Perhaps we could list other things by which men and brethren rob God, but the point has been made. King David, of Israel, was moved to sin and number the men of Israel and Judah (2 Samuel 24). Having done so, David’s heart convicted him and he repented of having sinned against God. God spoke through the prophet Gad and offered David three choices: (1) seven years of famine; (2) three months pursued by the enemy; or (3) three days’ plague from God (v. 13). David chose God’s plague for three days, believing that God would be more merciful than men. The plague killed 70,000 people from Dan to Beersheba (v. 15)! But finally God’s mercy relented and the angel of death stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

God instructed David to build an altar at the threshing floor of Araunah so that the plague might cease (vv. 18-21). Araunah generously offered to give David anything he needed — the threshing floor, oxen, implements, wood, etc. (v. 22-23). David refused the free gift and said, **“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”** (v. 24). David paid 50 shekels of silver for the threshing floor and oxen, built an altar to the LORD and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. God accepted the sacrifice and the plague ended.

King David was indeed a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). He had a great love, reverence and respect for God. In every act of worship this is seen, and God rewarded him for it. Let this example be a lesson for all of us. David cared more about the things of God than he did about his own things. When we put God first in our lives (Matt. 6:33), then we are giving God something.

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