**It’ll Cost You Everything**

**Lesson Passage: 1 Chronicles 21: 14-30**

**14 So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel, and seventy thousand persons fell in Israel. 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but when he was about to destroy it, the Lord took note and relented concerning the calamity; he said to the destroying angel, “Enough! Stay your hand.” The angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 16 David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell on their faces. 17 And David said to God, “Was it not I who gave the command to count the people? It is I who have sinned and done very wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, O Lord my God, be against me and against my father’s house, but do not let your people be plagued!” 18 Then the angel of the Lord commanded Gad to tell David that he should go up and erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. 19 So David went up following Gad’s instructions, which he had spoken in the name of the Lord. 20 Ornan turned and saw the king, and while his four sons who were with him hid themselves, Ornan continued to thresh wheat. 21 As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David; he went out from the threshing floor and prostrated himself before David with his face to the ground. 22 David said to Ornan, “Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the Lord—give it to me at its full price—so that the plague may be averted from the people.” 23 Then Ornan said to David, “Take it, and let my lord the king do what seems good to him; see, I present the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for the wood and the wheat for a grain offering. I give it all.” 24 But King David said to Ornan, “No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing.” 25 So David paid Ornan six hundred shekels of gold by weight for the site. 26 David built there an altar to the Lord and presented burnt offerings and offerings of well-being. He called upon the Lord, and he answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering. 27 Then the Lord commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath.  28 At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him at the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, he made his sacrifices there. 29For the tabernacle of the Lord that Moses had made in the wilderness and the altar of burnt offering were at that time in the high place at Gibeon, 30 but David could not go before it to inquire of God, for he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord.**

**I. Terms to Know**

**pestilence** - a serious, deadly epidemic or plague. (God sent as a punishment for the sins of David and the people of Israel.)

**calamity** - great misfortunes, disasters, or adversities that can be natural or result from human actions or divine judgment.

**threshing floor** - a flat, open area used to separate wheat from chaff after harvest.

**sackcloth** - a coarse, rough fabric, often made of goat hair, that was worn as a sign of mourning or when expressing sorrow.

**thresh wheat** - the process of separating the wheat grain from its husk or chaff.

**prostrated** - the act of lying flat on one's face, often as a sign of submission, respect, or worship.

**plague** - a large outbreak of any dangerous disease.

**averted** - looking away from something or stopping something from going wrong.

**threshing sledges** – the old agricultural implement used to separate cereals from their straw.

**sheath** - the protective cover for a sword.

**II. Summary**

**In 1 Chronicles 21:14-30, King David made a big mistake by ordering a census of the fighting men in Israel. This was wrong because God doesn't like it when leaders count people's strength but rather trusts in His own power and protection. As a result, God sent a plague (disease) that killed many people, and David had to choose between different punishments. He chose to accept the plague on himself and his family, hoping to protect the people. David then built an altar on a special spot (the threshing floor of Araunah) and offered sacrifices, which stopped the plague. This story teaches kids that even when leaders make mistakes, God can be merciful and guide them to make things right.**

* **David's Mistake: David, the king, wanted to know how many fighting men Israel had. He ordered Joab to count them.**
* **God's reaction: God wasn't happy about this. It was like David was trying to show off his own strength instead of trusting in God's power.**
* **The punishment: As a result, God sent a plague (a sickness that made many people very sick).**
* **David's choice: David was given a choice about what should happen. He chose to accept the punishment on himself and his family, hoping to spare the people.**
* **The sacrifice: David offered sacrifices to God at a special place. This was a way of showing God that he was sorry and asking for forgiveness.**
* **The end: The plague stopped, and God showed David that He would build a temple for Him on that very spot.**

**What we can learn:**

* **Even powerful people like kings can make mistakes.**
* **It's important to trust in God's power and protection, not in our own strength.**
* **When we make mistakes, we can ask for forgiveness and make things right with God.**
* **God can be merciful and guide us, even when we have messed up.**

**Learning the Lesson: This story teaches us that even though we are all loved by God, we can make mistakes. It's important to be humble, admit our mistakes, and ask for forgiveness.**

**III. Questions**

1. **What did the Lord send upon Israel?**
2. **What did He send to Jerusalem to destroy it?**
3. **What command did the angel of the Lord give to Gad?**
4. **What did David say to Ornan?**
5. **How much did David give to Ornan?**