



Lessons From a King's Offering

By Pastor Charles Omofomah

We are approaching the end of the year and the Thanksgiving season during which we give offerings to God from our “harvest.” There are some lessons we can learn from a king who also gave an offering during the harvest. Don’t say, “He did it because he was a king” because you are a king as well for the Bible says that God has made us kings [Revelation 1:6]. Therefore, you can also do what this king did and give a worthy offering unto God.

13 And three of the thirty chief went down, and came to David in the harvest time unto the cave of Adullam: and the troop of the Philistines pitched in the valley of Rephaim.

14 And David was then in an hold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem.

15 And David longed, and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!

16 And the three mighty men brake through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David: nevertheless he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the LORD.

2 Samuel 23:13-16 [KJV]

In the day of harvest, or we may say in a period of thanksgiving, King David was in a cave because the enemy had besieged his city, Bethlehem. At harvest time, when he was supposed to be rejoicing over the produce he was about to get, he was in the battlefield. That is not a good thing. By every standard, King David during the time of harvest or thanksgiving had every reason to murmur and complain. In the midst of it all, he longed to drink water from the well of Bethlehem. The three mighty men heard him and they must have thought, “Our king is thirsty and he wants to drink water from the well of Bethlehem, and the Word of God says, ‘I’ll run through a troop and by my

God I will leap over walls’” [Psalm 18:29]. They went through the troop and fetched what I’d like to call a drum, bucket, or jerrycan of water and brought it to David but then David did an amazing thing. In the midst of his thirst, he said, “No, I won’t drink, I’ll pour it out unto the Lord.” It means that in the midst of the people David poured the water out unto the Lord.

☆ Give God Publicly

David gave his offering publicly. A lot of us have misunderstood the scripture that says that when you give your left hand must not know what your right hand is doing [Matthew 6:3]. So we say, “Whatever I’m going to give, I’m just going to do it secretly.” God is not against public worship or public offering. What He is against is a wrong motive: when you want to show off with it. But if you’re giving publicly in order to honour His name and to teach others to do the same, then God approves of it. When it is time to praise the Lord, even if you are a Managing Director, lay down that position. If your staff members or other people who have admired you [particularly your compartment and gentleness, or the fact that you are a real lady] are there, forget about all of that and do it unto the Lord publicly, irrespective of who is looking at you. David once removed his clothes while praising God and his wife Michal said, “How can the king be praising God publicly like this?” [2 Samuel 6:15-17]. Michal never had children because of what she said. That tells me that if you praise Him publicly during this time of thanksgiving, you will be fertile in your finances, in material things, and in your body. Praise God publicly. Praise Him anyhow, praise Him anyway. Praise God with everything that you have.

☆ Give God What You Need

David longed, or desired very passionately, to drink from the well of Bethlehem and his men risked their lives to bring what he needed. That thing that he longed for passionately, he poured out unto the Lord; that is, he gave out what he needed so badly. He gave out what was his greatest need at that time. It means David remained thirsty. When David longed for the waters of the well of Bethlehem, he knew it would be difficult to get it. In fact, David wasn't expecting that anybody would go. He just voiced his desire. If the Bible says they went to get water [and I want to assume three men won't go and get a cup of water], they must have gotten at least a jerrycan so David could have taken some and poured out the rest unto the Lord or he could even have left it there to grease his ego saying, "Look at what these mighty men brought for me. It shows that they still regard me as king and my popularity is not completely gone. This is the water that men risked their lives to give me." He did not do that. Rather he gave all that he needed.

Many preachers today get into ministry not expecting the kind of success that they achieve, and instead of lying prostrate before God in thanksgiving and saying, "God, look where you have brought me from," they begin to feed themselves with the girls in the Choir or Ushering department. Yet they never thought they could get there. That's not what God wants. Your success is not meant to inflate your battered inferiority complex: it is for you to look back and give Him praise.

Some of us think that we get the things we get just because we confessed the Word, and God heard us. No! When you get things you thought you would not get at this time of your life, let it move you to kneel down and say, "God, is it I, Charles? Is it I who was so poor that the poor called me poor? Is it I whose father could not rent a house even in a slum and we had to live in the market place where there was neither bathroom nor toilet? Is it I who went through all the wrong schools apart from my primary school, that you have honoured like this? Is it I, God?"

When Jesus cleansed ten lepers, the only one who came back to thank Him was not even a Jew [Luke 17:15-18]. The other nine who did not come back

were Jews, so they felt they deserved their healing. Even in showing gratitude to the person who did that thing for you don't think, "I deserve it; I confessed the Word; I gave, and so God gave back to me." You may have confessed the Word and you may have given, but everything is by God's mercy.

The water was David's greatest need at that time, but he gave it away.

That water would not only have quenched David's physical thirst, it would have quenched the thirst of his deflated ego, and it could have satisfied his emotions. The water was David's greatest need at that time, but he gave it away. Someone may say, "I bought this car because I needed it; I just built this house because I needed it." Yes I know you need it. I see it here in the Word of God. What is that thing that you needed? Like David you desired it and you got it. You didn't only get it; you got it by a miracle.

David knew he needed that water but he was walking by revelation when he gave the water as an offering to God. We know this because in the very next chapter when David was instructed to build an altar for God, he went to meet Araunah who had all the materials he needed to build the altar. When he told Araunah he needed the materials to build an altar for God, Araunah said he would give him everything he needed, but David refused. We read of it this way:

24 And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

2 Samuel 24:24 [KJV]

David could have said, "This is a miracle! I don't have to spend my money." But he said, "No! This is for God. I will pay for everything. It's got to cost me something; it's got to cost me the satisfaction of my thirst."

☆ Give God A Better Deal Than You Deserve

When the three mighty men brought the water from the well of Bethlehem, David said,

17...Be it far from me, O LORD, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives...?

2 Samuel 23:17 [KJV]

David was saying, "I don't deserve this. There is only one person that deserves this." What does that translate to? It tells me that God deserves a better deal than me. Some of you say, "What will God do with that kind of money?" God deserves a better deal than you. If you think you deserve to be in a mansion, God deserves to be in anything bigger than a mansion. If you think you deserve the latest model of a car, God deserves a better deal. Get it into your spirit that God deserves a better deal.

I like people of style. I like people who have standards, and God wants us to raise our standards. And if you have raised your standard to the greatest limit, and to the greatest style you can think of, God deserves a better deal than that. If every month you buy yourself a designer suit because you think that's what you deserve, God deserves a better deal and it is really immaterial how great that thing is. One of the reasons that God said David was a man after His own heart must be because he always put God first. That's what King David's offering tells us.

"Give God what you need."

He wants you to thank Him this season with what you need and then trust Him for so much more. GOG

This thanksgiving season what will you give? You say, "But I need it so badly." You don't want to give God your crumbs. God is not a God of remnants.