



DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK

To Serve with Gratitude



But the king said to Araunah, “No, but I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing.” So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. (2 Samuel 24:24)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Romans 12:1)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in-Christ of WAC and JACM, this is the last devotion for 2023. It is important that we hear from the Lord what He has to tell us.

God punished King David for taking the census by sending a pestilence on Israel. Many people were killed. David realized he

had sinned and pleaded with God to withdraw His punishment on the people. God the prophet told David to build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah so that the plague might be averted from the people. Araunah willingly offered David what he needed without cost, but David declined and said, "...I will buy it from you for a price. I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing..."

I thank God for all of you who have served Him in various capacities. It is not about which area/s you serve in but the sacrifices that come with your service. As I have been a lay-person before, I understand how difficult it is to manage between working full-time and serving God simultaneously. Take heart, because Jesus sees your sacrifices.

In Romans 12:1, apostle Paul urged us to "...present our bodies as a living sacrifice..." Jesus himself is our perfect example. He is the sacrificial lamb so that we can be reconciled to God. Paul continued to say that your sacrifice should be "...holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." This means that it is not important whether men see it. What matters is that God sees your sacrifice and is pleased with it.

Therefore, do not turn our sacrifices into complaints and a platform to boost our pride. This is what the devil wants us to do, because it will gradually lead to divisions and destroy the house of God. Instead, let us come together as different parts of the body of Christ to encourage and show love to one another. Be patient and gracious to one another, as we are all imperfect beings who are still work-in-progress. God is still moulding us to

be Christlike, so in the meantime we must learn to worship and serve together.

Let us pray together:

Father God, we thank you for watching us through the year 2023. We ask for your forgiveness if we have served with a heart of complaint and ingratitude. With the help and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we want to repent before you. Help us to be more like Jesus in the coming days. May WAC and JACM be faithful in our calling to serve and not to be served. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Revd Kelvin