

**Oak Hills Baptist Church**  
**Sermon Title: "Knowing Ourselves as Unworthy**  
**Recipients of Undeserved Blessings: God's**  
**Gracious Gifts and Our Costly Gratitude"**  
**By Pastor Kimlyn Bender**  
**Date: October 2, 2011**

**Sermon Summary**

Today's text begins with King David talking to Nathan the prophet about his desire to build a house for God. That same night, God speaks to Nathan about what *he* desires. Instead of David building a house for God, God wants to build a "house" for David! He promises to bless David and his family for generations to come. He wants to bless his people Israel through David and his family. He will even reach the world through Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of this promise.

**1. Launching**

\* Any initial thoughts or questions from Sunday's sermon?

**2. Read the passage**

\* 2 Samuel 7:1-29 & 2 Samuel 24:18-25

**3. Diving into the Text**

1. Imagine you are David. How do you feel about God's lavish promise?
2. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. God's blessing is never intended to be hoarded but to be shared. Take time share with one another how God's blessings have touched your life, your community and the world.
3. We don't want to hoard our blessings. What are some ways we can move toward sharing our blessings with those around us near and far?

After hearing this promise, "King David went in and sat before the Lord."

In his prayer, David acknowledges three things before God.

1. David acknowledges his unworthiness. "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?" He understands that God's gift is grace, pure and simple. What do we learn about David from this confession? According to David in verse 18, what kind of God is this?
2. David acknowledges that the blessings are not only for himself, but for all of Israel. As we discussed above, God is challenging us to share our blessings.
3. David acknowledges God's greatness. How is this evident in the text? Take time to acknowledge God's greatness in your life.

In our second text, 2 Samuel 24:24, David responds to Araunah's offer by saying, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing."

1. What was Araunah's offer?
2. Why is it so important that the sacrifices we make cost us something? Why do they need to be truly *sacrificial*?
3. What are some examples of this kind of sacrifice in the Bible?
4. What are some examples from your own life?

**4. Responding & Prayer**

Prayer

The ultimate example of costly sacrifice is Jesus himself. Take time to reflect on Philipians 2: 5-11. Read each verse slowly and reflect on the nature of God, who emptied himself and became obedient to death, even death on the cross! Ask God to show us how we can be more like him.