

# The Threshing Floor of Ornan

by T. Austin-Sparks

---

*The sermon emphasizes the spiritual significance of the threshing floor as a place of separation and reality, where God refines His people through challenging processes.*

**Duration:** 29:44

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 24:15, 2 Samuel 6:6, 1 Chronicles 21:1, 1 Chronicles 21:15, Jeremiah 23:28, Matthew 3:12, Matthew 6:33

**Topics:** "Ornan"

---

## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of having a genuine and real relationship with God. He highlights the need for believers to have a solid foundation in their faith and not just rely on superficial teachings or forms of religion. The speaker warns against becoming too familiar with holy things and treating them as common or cheap. He also discusses the significance of threshing floors in biblical turning points and how they symbolize the refining process that God uses to purify his people.

---

## Transcript

Will you turn to several passages of the Word, firstly in the Gospel by Matthew, the Gospel by Matthew chapter 3 and verse 12. Whose hand is in his hand, and he will truly cleanse his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the garner, but the chaff he will burn up with unquenchable fire.

Back to the Old Testament in the 2nd book of Samuel chapter 6, 2nd book of Samuel chapter 6 and verse 6. And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it. For the oxen stumbled, the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah. God smote him there for his error, there he died by the ark of God.

In the 1st book of the Chronicles, 1st book of the Chronicles chapter 21, verse 15. God sent an angel unto Jerusalem to destroy it. And as he was about to destroy it, the Lord beheld, and he repented him of the evil.

Said to the destroying angel, it is enough, now stay thy hand. The angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of all men. The Jebusites.

Prophecies of Jeremiah chapter 23 and verse 28. Prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream. He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully.

What is the straw to the wheat, saith the Lord. It is impressive that so many turning points or crises in the Bible had threshing floors as their basis. We have noted one or two of these.

And they were turning points. As you know in the 1st, David was now being brought to the throne according to the word of the Lord and the anointing. Moving up to Jerusalem, Saul was dead.

David would bring the ark of the Lord to Jerusalem. It was a turning point and a very vital one in the history of God's goings with his people. In the 2nd place, the temple was about to come in.

That great symbolic representation of the house of God was now immediately in view. And the whole thing turned upon this threshing floor. For that very threshing floor of all men became the site of the temple.

It was a very big development in the goings of God. In the case of the passage in Jeremiah, this is a tremendous crisis. Because it is the doom of the false prophets who had led the people of God so far astray as to make their exile and captivity necessary.

The Lord speaks of their word as sharp, as strong, and makes this great difference by this question. What is the weight to the chop, said the Lord. It's a big turning point in the spiritual life of God's people.

All this comes to the threshing floor. We know the general purpose and action of a threshing floor, or as in these days, a threshing machine. We know what it means, what it represents.

In the first place, it speaks of discrimination and separation. Discrimination between the true and the false. And the action of separating those two things.

You look at all these passages that we have mentioned, you see that is what is in view. Making this necessary discrimination between what is true and what is not true. What is the thing and what is not the thing.

And in so discriminating, putting things in their right place, in their right category. That belongs there. And this belongs here.

And these two things are different, altogether different. They belong to two different realms. That is the first action and meaning of threshing.

It is taking up this whole matter of the difference between what looks to be, but is not. And what really is. You might write over the door of any threshing floor or threshing room.

Or inscribe upon any threshing instrument just one word. God would inscribe it. Reality.

Reality. That is the effect. To secure reality.

To establish reality. And to deliver reality from all make-believe. And all falsehood.

Between appearances. What looks like it, but is not it. Appearance and reality.

Between the outward, the merely outward, and what is really inward. That is what goes on in a threshing floor. Or, again, between what is just flimsy.

And will not be able to stand up to any adverse winds. And what is substantial. And abide the test.

Because in the East, even right to this day, it is a very, very simple form of threshing. A threshing floor is placed in some position where there is a draft. Where the wind blows.

Or where they can make a wind. An open space exposed to the elements. And then with this simple fan.

Like a carpet beater with prongs. The whole thing is beaten and thrown into the air. And away in the wind goes the chaff.

And the solid corn falls to the ground, heats up. Now, of course, modern methods are different, but the effect is the same. It's to let go what can go.

To get rid of what cannot stand up to the elements. And to secure that which is, dear friends, the Lord. Let his wind blow on us all.

Threshing is not a soft and kind thing. It may be very hard. It may seem very cruel.

But you all agree that it's very necessary. Supposing what you eat that is made of wheat and never been separated from the chaff. There'd be a lot of trouble, wouldn't there, with the merchant.

Indeed, you would complain. You'd ask, why has this not been properly threshed? Why has this been allowed to come in like this? Oh yes, we all agree that it's a very necessary thing. It is essential.

But it's a hard thing. It's a painful thing. This beating out.

This exposing to the elements. This carrying away of much. This reducing to solid reality.

It's hard. But we will say, it's right. It's necessary.

We know, we do know, as to ourselves, there's a lot that cannot pass with God. That cannot stand. We don't want it to stand.

We want it to go. But we know there's a great deal that is like chaff in our lives. Perhaps make-believe appearance, flimsy, unreal.

We don't know how true that is until we get on to the divine threshing floor. Begin to discover how much reality there is in us. We sometimes wonder whether there's going to be anything remaining at all.

But there it is. The Lord knows. The Lord knows.

And it's a very necessary thing for us individually, and for us as company of the Lord's people. From time to time, and it's a recurrent thing. Wouldn't like it to be year by year every year, as in nature.

But it's a recurrent thing. The Lord, from time to time, brings everything to the threshing floor. And there, through an ordeal, a painful ordeal, he begins to get down to this matter of reality.

Many questions begin to arise. How did we come to be where we are? Is it a solid background or foundation to where we are? How much of what we think we have, do we really have? How much of all that we have received of teaching, and what not, is our very life, and able to carry us through in times of adversity? The adversity is allowed to find that out. To find it out.

But whatever may be the effect, or however many may be the effects, God is after one thing, and we'll agree with him. Everything must be real. One hundred percent real.

Not wrapped up in some husk of profession, pretense, unreality, mere form, mere teaching, as teaching, nothing. It may be a small corn, but it's a corn. It's real.

The Lord is reducing to that. So it is said of the Lord Jesus, whose hand is in his hand, and he will truly cleanse his threshing floor. In these instances that we have cited, it's very evident that there was this confusion and this mixing up of things which the Lord was not going to tolerate.

So again, it's impressive that the issues were settled at threshing floors. Take this matter of bringing the ark to Jerusalem. Bringing the testimony to its divinely chosen and appointed place.

Bringing it to the end of its journey and getting it established. Take note of all that. Testimony of God where it ought to be.

And they're settled so that they can draw out the staves. The symbols are progress and reach finality over this matter. David assays to bring the ark to Jerusalem.

But David, as we were told last week, had spent some time, some months in the full assigned country by failure in faith. Failure in faith. David said, I shall one day die by the hand of Saul.

It is best for me to escape to the full assigned. Although anointed, he broke down under pressure. Went and dwelt in the land of the full assigned.

There he saw how the full assigned did things. Been reminded that amongst the many things that the full assigned did was to make carts. Make machines.

When they captured this ark, eventually having suffered so much because of it, they sent it back. They made a new cart. Put the ark thereon.

David knew something about full assigned machinery. The ways of the world. Came back and when he would bring the ark to Jerusalem, he made a new cart.

And put the ark on it. Disastrous consequences. We know that in the end, the discrimination came home to his heart as he looked at the word of God.

And eventually he said, the Levites ought to bear the ark of God. The difference between a mere mechanical contrivance. Worldly machinery.

Worldly methods. Organization according to the business standards of this world. The difference between all that are the natural uncircumcised mind of the full assigned.

And living men. Living men. Levites.

Whose very origin is the blood. Is the blood. Whose very life is the blood.

Whose very service is the blood. Living men who by the blood have been cut off from all that natural way of going on. Circumcised with the cross of Jesus Christ.

God is very particular about his spiritual principles in all ages. So when they reached the threshing floor naked. No wonder it was that the oxen stumbled.

The whole thing broke down. The procession was stopped. The ark was turned aside for many months.

It remained there until the lesson was learned. What is the chaff to the wheat? The Lord will not have this sort of thing. A mixture of the world in the life of his people.

The methods of this world. Mere machinery to carry on his testimony. No.

The whole thing will come to a standstill. In confusion. Till we have established this thing.

God's testimony must be in the lives of living men. Living men. Everybody related to this testimony of God.

Must be livingly as a person related to it. One other thing that of course arises out of this. Uzzah put forth his hand and took hold of the ark.

Friends, it can be fatal to become too familiar with holy things. It can be disastrous for these holy and sacred things of God to become common places. You and I can take charge of them.

Manipulate them. Have that kind of familiar association. Well, Uzzah learned that you can't do that.

All Israel learned that you can't do that. It sounds, it sounds hard, doesn't it? He doesn't like talking in this way, but you see a threshing floor is like this. But it's necessary.

It's necessary. Later, the ark is in Jerusalem on right grounds by right methods and means. And everything now is established.

Israel is in blessing and prosperity and growing and expanding. It says Satan stood up against Israel. Satan stood up against Israel.

Of course with the object of destroying Israel and the testimony. And how did he do it? He moved David to number the people. What did that mean? Oh, for David to take a census in order to say what a marvelously great nation we have.

I'm king over such a people. Look at this, look at this. Wonderful thing.

You can almost hear Nebuchadnezzar saying, see this great Babylon that I have built, can't you? Ah, Satan. Coming back from before times eternal. Where, where? He said, I will exalt my throne above the clouds.

The pride of self-exaltation. The pride of self-gratification. Boasting in things.

Just the complete opposite of dependence. Humble, meek, conscious dependence upon God. However great the thing may have become.

However extensive it may be. However much blessing God may have given. Never losing the deep, deep sense of absolute dependence upon him.

Satan is the embodiment of independence of God. God won't have that. If he hurls Satan from heaven because of that, he's not going to allow a man on earth to become governed by that spirit.

And so the terrible, terrible plague passed over the land, mowing the people down by their thousands. Reducing this whole thing. The turning point was at the threshing floor, or man.

See, the judgment of the flesh, the proud flesh, independent, glorying in things. When that has been settled, then there's a way for the house of God, because the house of God can contain none of that. It's the place of dependence upon God.

The embodiment, the house of, the meekness of Jesus Christ. It's the threshing floor that settles that issue. The Lord does bring us to the threshing floor.

If at any time we are in danger of boasting in things, and ceasing to be dependent, wholly, utterly, and consciously dependent upon himself. No prize can come into the house of God. We all agree with that.

And so a threshing floor must deal with anything like that. Well I think you see, from these instances and illustrations, and they could be carried into many other realms. It was necessary, and there was time to do it, we should see from the word of God how again and again the Lord just stepped in and said, look here, we're getting confused a bit.

We're getting mixed up. Things are not just as clear, transparent, and single as I would have them. We must do something about this.

And then he brings his winds to blow. They're very, very devastating winds. Devastating to all that is not of God.

But complimentary to that deep, that true work of God. The Lord is not ever on destructive lines, on negative lines. He's always for the positive.

You are having a bad time, you're on a threshing floor, and the Lord seems to be dealing with a lot, and you're beginning to wonder if there's anything going to remain at all. Do remember that the Lord is not after your destruction, your annihilation, to finish up everything. The Lord is after something solid, to establish you, really to get that which will go right through.

Oh, that's the point, dear friends. The Lord is after the thing that will stand, will remain, to get rid of just everything that will not do that. Whatever it may be, we've all gone that way.

You've learned, got a lot perhaps by birth, been born into Christianity, perhaps a Christian home. Got a lot from your association with Christian things. You may have come into a realm of much Christian teaching, and all that.

But that does not mean that the whole thing is really true in you or in me because of that. The Lord is going to put that to the test from time to time. It's a very necessary work.

Here it is. It's only that which is really worthless that will be destroyed. And the wheat will he gather, store in his garner.

He is after wheat. He is after wheat. That's what he's after, to have in you and in me the thing that abides.

May we have grace. He'll not always keep us on the threshing floor. So Isaiah says.

Isaiah says, bread corn is bruised, but he will not always be bruising it. He'll not always be bruising it. There are times when it's like that.

They seem to be long drawn out, I know. We wonder if ever we're coming off the threshing floor. But in the order of nature, that is only one part of the whole of the course of the years, isn't it? And in grace it's the same.

It's a thing that has to be done. It has its place. It has its time.

If it affects its purpose, it will pass. It may come back again later on when it's necessary. But he will not always be.

Shall we pray?

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/1/SID1087.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/t-austin-sparks/the-threshing-floor-of-oran/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**