

God's Way

2 Samuel 6:1-23

January 17, 2010

Intro

When we come to second Samuel chapter 6, David has been made king over all the tribes of Israel, not just over the tribe of Judah. When the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, no doubt they felt betrayed since David had once lived among them. They formed a great army in order to defeat David, but the Lord was with him and he defeated the Philistines in two great battles.

All of that leads us to the events of chapter 6. With David firmly in place as the king of Israel, and with peace over the Philistines, David decides that it is time to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem, the new capital of Israel.

It's important also to understand what has been happening in David's life spiritually. Before David became king, he was on the run from Saul who felt threatened by him and he became weary and tired of always having to look over his shoulder. In his discouragement, he stepped out of the will of God, basically he was backsliding, for 16 months. Then, when David's life got to its darkest, broken state, he turned to God and began to rebuild his life.

When we come to chapter 6, David is growing spiritually much stronger. His heart sincerely wants to honor God so he decided that it was time to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem. In other words, David knew that the ark of God represented the glory of God's presence and David wanted it in Jerusalem where all of Israel could also find revival in their lives as well.

But here is where David learned some great insights into how to bring the fullness of God's glory into his life and into Israel.

I. Don't Do the Right Thing the Wrong Way

- 1 No doubt David had put a lot of thought into how this should be done. No doubt he was excited at the prospect of having the ark of God in Jerusalem.
- 2 And what better way to bring the ark of God into Jerusalem than with a parade? He gathered 30,000 chosen men of Israel. He gathered all kinds of instruments made of fir wood.
- 3 This was going to be a wonderful celebration event. The ark of God was finally coming to Jerusalem after all these years.
- 4 It's important to understand that the ark of God had been out of place for more than 40 years. Back when Eli was priest, some of the people thought they could bring the ark of God into battle to bring them good luck. But the ark of God isn't about good luck. Instead, it was captured by the Philistines.
- 5 The Philistines, however, couldn't handle it and so they sent it back to Israel on a

cart led by two cows. It was then brought to the house of Abinidab where it remained up to this point.

A. Good intentions are not enough

6 Clearly David had the right desire. His heart was in the right place. He wanted to honor God and he knew the ark needed to be in Jerusalem. He wanted the presence of the Lord in the center of the nation and that was certainly a good thing.

7 David also understood the importance of Jerusalem, of Zion, in the heart of God.

Psalm 132:13-14, For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. “This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.”

B. Do the right thing God’s way

1 They placed the ark of God on a new cart. That was their first mistake. This wasn’t the way God had instructed Israel to move the ark of God.

2 Then, the sons of Abinidab, Uzzah and Ahio were leading the cart. There’s certainly something wrong with this picture.

3 At some point, the procession came to a stone threshing floor which upset the whole arrangement. Uzzah then reached out toward the Ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. That was when tragedy struck, because Uzzah immediately was struck down by God for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

4 David became greatly afraid of the Lord that day and he was unwilling to bring the ark into the city, so he took it aside to the house of a man named Obed-Edom where it remained for three months.

5 But during those three months, David discovered that God's way was to have the ark of God carried on the shoulders of the Levite priests. He had done the right thing, but not God's way.

1 Chronicles 15:15, The sons of the Levites carried the ark of God on their shoulders with the poles thereon, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord.

C. God’s ways are higher than ours

6 God is as interested in how something is done as what is done. In other words, the end most certainly does not justify the means.

7 There is a lot of practical application in this principle for our lives today.

- 8 We want to justify something in our lives by trying to convince ourselves that it's a good thing. Many people want what they want so they're going to try to engineer a way to get it for themselves.
- 9 There is a lot of application here in regards to our personal relationship to God and even how we do church.
- 10 *What we need to come to realize is that if we would trust in God's ways, we would find that he would bless us in far greater ways that we can bless ourselves.*

Illus – God's plan for how he would pay my way through bible college was far greater than my plan.

- 1 When David placed the Ark in the house of Obed-Edom, he discovered that the house of Obed-Edom and all that belonged to him was blessed of God.

Illus – The way we do church must also be done the way God wants church to be done.

1. They made a cart. I heard someone once asked a question in regards to this passage, "What is a cart? A bunch of boards and big wheels." In other words, some places try to build church on this board and that board, this committee and that committee, etc.
 2. They had a new cart. It's very tempting to think that a church can be built on the latest new fad that happens to come through the country.
 3. The cart imitated what the Philistines did. We shouldn't try to imitate the world; using the world's methods to bring in the glory of God.
 4. They had a parade. Many people think that if we just make enough excitement, the church will grow from that excitement.
 5. Uzzah and Ahio were leading the cart. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit rather than to think that we can ask God to follow us and bless whatever we want to do.
- 2 There are so many scriptures that help us understand that God blesses the one who trusts in God's ways rather than their own ways.

Psalm 128:1, How blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.

Psalm 119:59, I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies.

Psalm 25:4-5, Make me know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day.

II. God's Ways are Strongly Blessed

- 1 David was afraid to bring the ark into the city until he heard that the house of Obed-Edom was blessed in every way.
- 2 Then David realized that God's heart is always to bless, but he must humble himself and trust that God's ways are better than his.
- 3 Then it tells us that David brought the ark up from the house of Obed-Edom with gladness. In other words, now he knows what God wants him to do and it has filled him with joy.

A. Know where to put your strength

- 1 There is an interesting lesson here in regards to the effort of man's strength. How much do we put forth effort and how much do we wait on God to put forth His strength?
- 2 The name Uzzah means "strength," And it seems obvious that it has significance here. Uzzah reached out in order to give God a hand. But God didn't need Uzzah's help.

Illus – the ark had been through forty years in the desert and never once did it fall.

Illus – I understand because I tend to be way too helpful myself. When we were in Africa and loading a small plane, I was too helpful to the pilot. When the men were on our way to Promise Keepers and the bus broke down, I was way too helpful to the mechanic.

- 1 We can also be too helpful to God and think He needs our help when He doesn't.
- 2 At the same time, we need to know when to put our shoulder to the plow and give all of our might.
- 3 When David brought up the ark the second time, the Levites would only walk six paces and then he would sacrifice; another six paces and another sacrifice. This seems like way too much work, but David was honoring God with all his heart and with all his might.
- 4 Then, in verse 14, David was dancing before the Lord with *all his might*.

Illus – One of David's mighty men had been told to hold a lentil field as the Philistines advanced against him. But he held on, though others fell back, he refused to fall back. Another clung to his sword till it had to be pried from his hand. This is all out commitment.

- 1 There is insight in understanding that God doesn't need our help and won't bless our efforts to help ourselves by excluding Him.
- 2 But when God says to do something, we must do it with all our might.

Psalm 127:1-2, Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for it is He who gives to His beloved even while he sleeps.

Ecclesiastes 9:10, Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might;

John 6:28-29, Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Illus – I believe that God opens doors that no man can close, but I must be faithful and knock on them.

B. God entrusts the ark to us today

- 3 The ark was the one thing among all the things of the tabernacle that must be carried.
- 4 The message of the ark is still being carried today. He gives us the message that it represents.
- 5 The ark was filled with the broken tablets and covered by the blood of a lamb. That is the message of salvation today.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 The ministry of reconciliation