

The Ark of God

February 15, 2015

2 Samuel 6:1-23

Here is the invitation up front: That I would do things God's way, on God's time, under God's direction; not in mine.

The Ark of the Covenant of God had been gone for approximately 100 years and no one apparently bothered to retrieve it. Remember from 1 Samuel 4 that the Philistines had stolen the Ark and then it was passed from city to city, ending at the house of Abinidab and Eleazer, who was to oversee it (1 Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 13).

After David conquered Jerusalem in Chapter 5 he went to seek after the Ark in Chapter 6.

So why the death of Uzzah? Why would God strike him down when he was just trying to save the Ark? What can we take away from this Biblical account?

1) In ALL things we are to consult with the Lord; to seek Him and His plans.

David and others didn't consult with the Lord of how to care for and carry the Ark.

1 Chronicles 15:12-15 is the same account that we read in 1 Samuel. In verse 13 it says, *"For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."* **1 Chronicles 15:13**

And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. **Numbers 4:15**

No one was to touch the Ark, as there the presence of God rested! It wasn't a good luck charm, but where the presence of God rested.

It was David's fault, along with the priests and the Levites, for not asking God how they were to carry the Ark.

God is not strict, hateful, nor power hungry. He is holy and His way is the right way. When we fail to consult the Lord in all areas we can end up upside down.

Don't trust your heart, emotions, desires, or impulse; trust God's plan.

Are you consulting/seeking God in all things in your life? Your family, work, Church, friends, choices, etc.? How do we do this?

2) In consulting with the Lord, we can save ourselves and others from heartache, disappointment and pain (even death).

If David and the leaders would have consulted with the Lord on His plans, then Uzzah would have lived and David would not have become angry.

My rebellion, intentional or unintentional, directly affects others. **Rebellion** is at the root of all **sin**.

Unintentional- our blind spots! Ask the Lord to show you your blind spots!

We are called to love God with all we have first, this is the greatest commandment. If we love someone we honor them, listen to them, and spend time with them!

My lack of following God's plan sends a ripple effect, yet my following God's plan for my family, home, job, Church, etc. also has a ripple effect.

3) When we get on track with doing things God's way there is a peace that God gives.

This doesn't mean things will go our way all the time, but joy and peace reign.

In 2 Samuel 6:10-13 they apparently find out how to care for the Ark correctly. In doing so they understand and grasp the **holiness** and **vastness** of God.

When we receive God's Word and God's instruction, as we go through life, we come to grasp and respect the holiness and the greatness of God.

We soon realize God's **way** works much better than **ours**.

4) When we follow God and know Him fully we don't care what others say or think.

In 2 Samuel 6:15-23 David was dancing and worshiping before the Lord, but his wife despised him and was even embarrassed by his acts of worship.

Following Jesus isn't always popular, especially if you follow Him with all you have.

This morning are you doing things God's way, in God's time, and under God's direction? If not, it may even "seem" right, as it did for David, but if we fail to seek the Lord in all things there is often a heavy consequence to pay.

On the flip side, if we seek and follow God in our decisions we can have peace and trust that He is in control, not us.