

Message #9**II Samuel 6:1-23**

There is a very interesting verse of Scripture in the book of Proverbs in the section that was written by Solomon, who was David's son. I am reading through the Bible and I just read this verse earlier this week. Solomon wrote: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 16:25).

Now there are many ways to apply that proverb, but the main point is easy to see. **In all areas of life, people make decisions that seem right to them at the time, but the consequences of those decisions can be disastrous.**

For example, every person who ever got involved in immorality thought it was a good option at the time, only to discover it led to total misery. Every person who got addicted to alcohol or drugs thought it was the right thing to do at the time. Every person who ends up in hell really thought their religion or works could save them.

But here is what all people need to realize; no matter how right it may seem if one disobeys the word of God, the end result will be disastrous. This is true for the worst sinner and this is true for the best of God's saints.

If ever you want to see an example of this, it is right here with the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a sacred Ark that contained the written word of God. God laid out specific guidelines for moving the Ark.

According to Exodus 25:10-16, two poles were to be put through rings on the side of the Ark box and the priests were to move it by carrying it (Numbers 4:15). **God made it very clear that no one was to touch the Ark or he would die.**

David was being blessed by God. He made Jerusalem his capital. His family was expanding. His house was being built and he was winning wars against the Philistines. Both Israel and Judah supported him and joined him. Finally for David life as king was good.

David loved the Lord. David loved the word of God. David gave glory to God. One thing David wanted was that sacred Ark brought to Jerusalem. When he decided to bring it to Jerusalem, he learned a very important lesson:

DAVID LEARNS HOW SACRED AND SERIOUS GOD VIEWS HIS WORD AND OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD AND HE LEARNS WELL-MEANING ACTIONS DO NOT SUPERSEDE FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE.

In God's mind the end does not justify the means. Let's say that people in power don't like a specific leader so they decide to rig the vote so the leader they don't like doesn't win. So let's say they cheat and lie to the people and in the end they appear to succeed.

In God's mind, they will not ever be justified. Lying and stealing and false balances are things God hates. I promise you this; God will not be mocked because the end does not justify the means. David would learn this lesson the hard way.

According to **verses 1-2**, after the victory over the Philistines and after taking away all of their idols (5:21), David gathered 30,000 of his best fighters and decided it was time to move the Ark of God.

The Ark was located in Baale-Judah, also known as Kiriath-jearim (I Sam. 6:21-7:2). So the Ark of the Covenant was located about nine miles north of Jerusalem.

The Ark had probably been sitting in this location since the death of Eli (I Sam. 7:1). So David decided that he needed to get that Ark and transport it nine miles back to Jerusalem. In this narrative there are ten chronological realities clearly revealed:

Chronological Reality #1 - They put the Ark on a new cart to transport from Abinadab's house to Jerusalem. **6:3**

Now even though David has a brand new cart for transporting the Ark that was not the way it was supposed to be transported. God demanded that when the Ark was moved that it would be moved by priests who would carry the poles on their shoulders (Ex. 37:5). So this is a clear violation of the guidelines in the Law for moving the Ark of the Covenant (Num. 4:15; 7:9).

We may assume that priests put it on the cart by using the poles, but by putting it on the cart they were in fact not obeying what God told them they were to do.

Chronological Reality #2 - They began to bring the Ark from Abinadab's house to Jerusalem. **6:4**

Ahio and Uzzah were sons of Abinidab (6:3). Abinadab had a son whose name was Eleazar (I Sam. 7:1) who was responsible to take care of the Ark as a priest. Abinidab's house was located on top of a hill and as they brought the Ark on a cart, Ahio walked in front. Both Ahio and Uzzah were priests.

The name Uzzah does show up in a priestly genealogy—I Chronicles 6:1, 29. Although the text does not specifically say they were priests, they certainly were functioning as priests and both were involved in moving the Ark of the Covenant.

Chronological Reality #3 - David and his men were celebrating the fact that the Ark was being transported to Jerusalem. **6:5**

Apparently there was something like a marching band leading the procession. All Israel was celebrating and the band had multiple instruments playing as the nine mile trip was taking place.

There were those in the marching band that had all different kinds of instruments, with lyre, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals. Festive music filled the air as they marched along.

By the way, this is a marching band outdoors in a parade; this is not the kind of thing you bring into the church. Some have used this text as a basis for having electric guitars, drums and cymbals during what they call a worship service.

This is a total misrepresentation and misapplication of what is happening here. This marching band would have never gone into the sacred places of the Tabernacle and later Temple with any of this.

This was a procession that was bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

Chronological Reality #4 - During the procession the oxen stumbled and Uzzah took hold of it to prevent the Ark from falling. **6:6**

As the cart rolled down the road they came to the “threshing floor of Nacon,” the oxen stumbled and Uzzah reached out instinctively and took hold of the Ark to stabilize it and protect it from falling.

Now there are two issues here that are critical.

- 1) The Ark was to be transported by priests carrying it via the poles on their shoulders (Num. 7:9). They will learn this lesson—II Samuel 15:24.
- 2) No one was to touch the Ark or they would die (Num. 4:15).

So if God’s word had been obeyed, the Ark would never have fallen off a cart because oxen would not have been involved in pulling the cart.

Chronological Reality #5 - God was angered by Uzzah’s irreverence in touching the Ark and He executed him right then and there. **6:7**

Uzzah really believes he is protecting the Ark by grabbing it and what he is actually doing is defiling the Ark by touching it.

God is perfectly capable of defending the Ark by Himself (I Sam. 5:3-12; 6:19-20). What is actually happening here is that a priest is disobeying the word of God. In his mind, the end justified the means, but in God’s mind he was irreverent to obeying the word of God and God killed him.

It angers God when He is not revered by His people who should reverence Him. When His people do irreverent things in that which is supposed to be sacred, it angers Him.

Chronological Reality #6 - David reacts to what God did in killing Uzzah. **6:8-11**

When David saw what God had done, he reacted emotionally. Robert Bergen said he flew into an “emotional storm” (*1, 2 Samuel*, p. 330). He reacted in four ways:

(Reaction #1) - David was angry with God. **6:8**

David was so angry that he actually named the spot where this happened—Perez-Uzzah—which means “Uzzah’s breach” or “outbreak against Uzzah.”

(Reaction #2) - David was afraid of God. **6:9a**

God and His word are to be revered and God is to be feared. It is no wonder that both David and his son Solomon wrote that the “fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom.”

(Reaction #3) - David questioned the moving of the Ark. **6:9b**

David came to the conclusion that the Ark could not be moved to Jerusalem. This is not true; it could come to Jerusalem but it had to be moved God’s way. The priests could use the poles and transport the Ark.

(Reaction #4) - David refused to move the Ark to Jerusalem. **6:10-11**

David took the Ark to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. He was a Levite who would eventually become the gate keeper for the Temple in Jerusalem (I Chron. 15:18). His house was the closest levitical house to where this had occurred, so the Ark was left there.

The Ark remained at his house for three months (**6:11**).

Chronological Reality #7 - David brings the Ark to Jerusalem. **6:12-15**

David was told that God was blessing the house of Obed-edom and everything that was connected to him because he had the sacred Ark of God (6:12).

David went to his home and brought it to Jerusalem (**6:12**).

Carefully observe from **verse 13** that they are no longer using a cart and oxen to carry the Ark, but priests are bearing it.

As they brought the Ark toward Jerusalem after six paces or steps, David had the men stop and he offered a sacrifice to the LORD, which included a bull and fattened calf.

According to **verse 14**, David was dancing before the Lord with all of his might wearing a linen ephod which was a priestly garment.

So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the Ark with shouting and the sound of a trumpet (**v. 15**).

This 9-10 mile trip featured this joyous celebration all the way into Jerusalem.

Chronological Reality #8 - Michal the daughter of Saul sees David celebrating. **6:16**

David was happy when the Ark made it all the way into Jerusalem and he was leaping and dancing before the LORD and Michal the daughter of Saul looked out the window and despised David.

She obviously was not out celebrating with the other people and she distanced herself from David physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Now probably the reason she despised David is because she realizes God is blessing him far more than He ever did her dad or former husband Paltiel (3:14-16). David had a great love for the Lord and he was rejoicing but as the text says, Michal was “the daughter of Saul.”

Chronological Reality #9 - David responds to the Ark being brought to Jerusalem. **6:17-19**

There are four responses that David had:

(Response #1) - David puts the Ark in a tent he has prepared for it. **6:17a**

(Response #2) - David offers burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. **6:17b**

(Response #3) - David blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. **6:18**

(Response #4) - David distributed supplies to all the people of Israel. **6:19**

Both men and women participated in this national celebration. The bread and the dates and the raisins would have helped sustain the people as they went home.

Chronological Reality #10 - David is opposed by Michal in his own home. **6:20-23**

After David had blessed all of Israel, he headed home to bless his own household and Michal the daughter of Saul who had been given to David met him to scold him about his celebration (**6:20**).

She accuses David of taking off his royal clothes in the eyes of the servants and accuses him of being motivated by some hopeful lustful indulgence in front of the maids.

David said to Michal (**v. 21**), God chose me above your father and I am celebrating before Him whether you like it or not. David says I am willing to be humiliated more than this to honor God. Furthermore, I am more honored with the other women you mentioned than with you. The last mention of Michal is that she died childless as a curse from God (**6:23**).

Michal sure is the daughter of Saul. Anything that brings true glory to God is something she does not like.

Regardless of what other people feel or think, we need to reverence God and stay true to His word. Faithfulness to God's word leads to blessings.