

Let Us Move The Ark! Lessons From David

1 Chronicles 13 & 15

Franklin Church of Christ
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AM Worship

Introduction:

A. David Attempts To Move The Ark

1. *David consulted with the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with every leader. And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is the will of the LORD our God, let us send abroad to our brethren who remain in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites in the cities that have pasture lands, that they may come together to us. Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us; for we neglected it in the days of Saul." All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. So David assembled all Israel from the Shihor of Egypt to the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriathjearim. (1 Chronicles 13:1-5 RSV)*

B. Death Of Uzzah

1. *And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriathjearim which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim. And they carried the ark of God upon a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart. And David and all Israel were making merry before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets. And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and he smote him because he put forth his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. (1 Chronicles 13:6-10 RSV)*

C. David Becomes Angry And Afraid Of God

1. *And David was angry because the LORD had broken forth upon Uzzah; and that place is called Perezuzza to this day. And David was afraid of God that day; and he said, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?" So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obedom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the household of Obedom in his house three months; and the LORD blessed the household of Obedom and all that he had. (1 Chronicles 13:11-14 RSV)*

D. David Prepares To Move The Ark

1. *David built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister to him for ever." And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD to its place, which he had prepared for it. (1 Chronicles 15:1-3 RSV)*
2. *And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites: for Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You are the heads of the fathers' houses of the Levites; sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD of Israel to the place I have prepared for it. "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." So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. And the children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles, as Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD. (1 Chronicles 15:11-15 NKJV)*

Discussion:

I. We can be sincere and full of praise for the Lord and still be wrong. (13:7,8)

- A. *And they carried the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, even with songs, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets. (1 Chronicles 13:7-8 ASV)*
 1. *For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. (Romans 10:2 NKJV)*
 2. *And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. (1 Samuel 15:22 RSV)*

II. Fear can paralyze us. (13:12-14)

- A. *And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? So David removed not the ark unto him into the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months: and Jehovah blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had.* (1 Chronicles 13:12-14 ASV)
- B. *I sought the LORD, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.* (Psalms 34:4 RSV)
- C. *When I am afraid, I put my trust in thee.* (Psalms 56:3 RSV)

III. To seek God's Will means to Turn to His Word. (15:12-15)

- A. They talked about doing God's will but they did not seek His word. (13:2)
- B. *For because ye bare it not at the first, Jehovah our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not according to the ordinance.* (1 Chronicles 15:13 ASV)
- C. **Hebrews 11:6**
- D. *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* (Romans 10:17 NKJV)
- E. **2 Timothy 2:15**

IV. In our worship and service to God, it must be God's Way!

- A. Even if the "new cart" is "cheaper, prettier, or faster." (13:7)
- B. Even if the "new cart" is more popular. (13:3,4)
- C. Even if it "feels" right.
 - 1. *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* (Proverbs 14:12 KJV)
 - 2. *And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.* (Colossians 3:17 ASV)
 - 3. **Matthew 7:21-23**

Conclusion:

- A. We can be sincere and full of praise for the Lord and still be wrong. (13:7,8)
- B. Fear can paralyze us. (13:12-14)
- C. To seek God's Will means to turn to His Word. (15:12-15)
- D. In our worship and service to God, it must be God's Way!
Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. (Psalms 127:1 RSV)