

Respect God's Holiness

2 Samuel 6:1-15,17

God is holy, and we should respond to His holiness with reverence and obedience. In our culture, people neither fear God nor treat the things of God with respect and reverence. Even the worshipers in our churches display the lack of reverence for God's holiness when they approach worship too casually or in a superficial or frivolous manner.

Background:

What a remarkable and varied life David lived! As a shepherd, he killed a lion and a bear, and these victories prepared him to kill the giant Goliath. David served as an attendant to King Saul and became a beloved friend of Saul's son Jonathan. For perhaps ten years, David was an exile in the wilderness of Judea, hiding from Saul and learning to trust the Lord more and more. He had patiently waited for the Lord to give him the promised throne, and now that time had come. It is through faith and patience that God's people inherit what He has promised (Heb. 6:12), and David had trusted God in the most difficult circumstances.

David had just become king for the entire nation of Israel. One of the first acts as king, David wanted the people to experience what he had experienced. The Glory of God. In the Old Testament the GHABOD (Glory of God) was linked to the Ark of the Covenant because it was the mercy seat that chose to meet with His people. Therefore David wanted the Ark to be brought to Jerusalem for the people to experience the Glory of God.

For over seventy-five years, the ark had been absent from the divine sanctuary at Shiloh. The Philistines captured the ark when Eli was judge and then returned it to the Jews because the Lord sent judgment on the Philistines.

Honor God in God's way (2 Sam 6:1-5)

Why did David want the ark in Jerusalem?

For one thing, he wanted to honor the Lord and give Him His rightful place as King of the nation. But David also had a secret desire in his heart to build a sanctuary for the Lord (Ps. 132:1-5), and the first step would be to place the ark in the capital city.

David knew that the Lord desired a central sanctuary and he hoped the Lord would let him build it. David's dream didn't come true, but he did buy the land on which the temple was built (2 Sam. 24:18.), and he provided the temple plans and the wealth and materials needed for its construction

I have been there and maybe you to. We have a big parade and programs and big ideas. Then we hit a bump and we think we can solve the problem by our own efforts.

Respect the Holiness of God (2 Sam 6:6-11)

David's first attempt failed miserably because the Levites didn't carry the ark on their shoulders. God had given specific directions through Moses how the tabernacle was to be erected, dismantled, and transported

When they used a new cart drawn by oxen, they were following the pattern of the pagan Philistines (1 Sam. 6), not the pattern given to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The fact that all the leaders of Israel agreed to use the cart didn't make it right. When it looked like the ark would fall from the cart, Uzzah presumptuously took hold of it to steady it, and he was killed. But God had warned about this in the law of Moses, and every Israelite surely knew of it.

Vs. 9 – How shall the Ark of the Lord come to me?

That is the key question for everyone. Every Parent – Every Church and ministry.

How will God's Glory fill my house and Church?

Application:

1 - What pleases the king and the people may not please God, and what doesn't please God will not have His blessing.

2 - God's work must be done in God's way if it is to have God's blessing.

3 - God sometimes manifested His power in judgment to remind the people that one thing had not changed: God's people must obey God's Word.

4 - God reminded His people that they were not to imitate the other nations when they served Him.

5 - No amount of unity or enthusiasm can compensate for disobedience.

6 - When God's work is done in man's way, and we imitate the world instead of obeying the Word, we can never expect the blessing of God. The crowds may approve what we do, but what about the approval of God?

Worship with Enthusiastic Reverence (2 Sam. 6:12-15, 17)

When David heard that the presence of the ark was bringing blessing to the household of Obed-Edom, he wanted that blessing for himself and his people.

David was now determined to do God's work in God's way, so he sent the Levites on the ten-mile trip to the house of Obed-Edom, and they brought the ark to Jerusalem on their shoulders.

This time there is no big parade, this time the ark was carried in simplicity and humility.

David's dance was personal and sincere, and he did it before the Lord as he celebrated the coming of His presence into the capital city.

Vs. 13 = Moving the Ark on a cart would have been much more efficient than the way they moved. David was saying Lord it is not about what I want to do, it is about what You want me to do.

Vs. 17 = David offered sacrifice to the Lord before he blessed the people. We need to bless the Lord first with our praise and worship.

What is success?

Hollywood says success is beauty and fame

Washington says success is in power

The average American says success is material possessions

The story of David says success is a life lived by reverence for God.

Respect for God is a mark of true believers. We express this reverence by avoiding profane talk. We express reverence by our prayers and praise. Our praise should be with enthusiasm.