

## **Following God's Will, God's Way:**

1. Be honest! Have you ever looked around, spotted someone doing something and thought, "I could do that better!" (work, in the family, even in the church)
  - a. Find our selves critiquing, maybe even planning, what we would do if given that position
2. I imagine to a certain extent, that is how David had to have felt during the time when he was waiting to become king over Israel:
  - a. He could look around and see failed leadership, military mishaps, spiritual decline, neglect of the people, etc and think "when this prophecy comes true, i'm going to right these wrongs"
3. David would do exactly that for many portions of his reign, "do things a better way"
  - a. Unfortunately, David forgot that there is one area, that we can never come up with a better way: following God's commands
  - b. Referring to one particular event from David's life, from which we can learn several important lessons about obeying God's will, God's way:

### **Establishing Context:** *turn to 2 Sam 6*

- The long period of civil war and unrest is finally over:
- The tribes are all united under David's rule, a time of prosperity
- But all is not right-- the Ark of God is still at Kireath-Jearim in the house of Abinidab
- David's intent in in II Samuel 6 is to bring the ark back to a central place of worship in his capital of Jerusalem (another account in I Chron. 13-16)

### **Begin reading: 2 Sam 6:1-7**

#### **1. Good Intentions are not the Same as Obedience:**

a. Did anyone set out with ill intentions?

i. David:

1. the fact that he wants to bring the ark back should speak well of him to begin with

2. Did he go out and get the old run down turnip cart? Notice in v3 that they had even commissioned a new cart: time, money, effort...
3. Did he sneak it in? was it something that nobody cared for or showed up for? v5 states that this was a parade like celebration, music, worship, time effort...
  - a. Is any of this what God commanded? NO
  - b. Perhaps it was a small, obscure, hard to find commandment:
    - i. EX. 25, 37, Numbers 4, 7, Deut. 31, Josh. 3, 8
    - ii. God had carefully, and explicitly taught Israel how to transport His ark, and they had known how for centuries:
4. David still needed to learn the lesson that always eluded Saul: Good intentions mean nothing! An honest heart that is willing to follow HIS commands will please Him
- ii. What about poor Uzzah:
  - i. Does He seem like someone who has a lot of contempt for God's will? The Ark?
    - a. Be honest... What would you have done!!! Instincts probably took over!
  2. And what applied to David applies here: This wasn't what God wanted:
    - a. The Ark wasn't really to be seen in transportation, much less even touched:
    - b. But Uzzah was only trying to do what he thought was right: *That is the problem.*
- b. We must not let good intentions serve as a substitute for simply following God's will;; moving on:

## 2. Love Without Fear Does Not Produce Fruit:

- a. Did David Love the Lord?
  - i. Man After God's own heart
  - ii. Ps 23: dwell in the house of the Lord
  - iii. I rejoiced...
  - iv. Motivation...
- b. In this instance... Did David Fear the Lord?
  - i. Much abuse of 1 Jo. 4:18

1. But God loves us... no need to fear...
2. We are supposed to draw near with Boldness...
3. Jesus is a tender shepherd...
4. If you fear God, you are an immature Christian:
  - a. 1 John is talking about “terror” only serving GOd because you don’t want to be punished
  - b. The fear that we are discussing is reverence: respect
    - i. Imagine scenarios: Moses and the bush, Job and the Whirlwind
- c. When Solomon would write to his son in Pr. 9:10, do you think maybe he had this story in mind?
  - i. Yes David Loved the Lord, a GREAT deal, but he didn’t fear Him: And without a fear of the Lord, there is no knowledge to serve Him

### **3. We should be excited/in a hurry to serve God, but not at the expense of**

#### **Learning how:**

- a. Something else very interesting in this passage as to how David reacted: READ 8-11
  - i. Did you notice the different way’s that David’s desire to just get it done, regardless stunted his spiritual life?
    1. First, He grew angry with God/Displeased: Literally Burn!
      - a. How pleasing do you think this was?
    2. Second, because he didn’t Fear God, He was now Afraid!
      - a. He reasoned like a child, God is just being unreasonable about this whole thing: There’s no way I can get the Ark now! **Like Saul this morning**
    3. The Ark remained for there for 3 months-- still not in its proper place:
- b. Are there things that we might want, and want now that we will do more damage by NOT following God’s way?
  - i. Growing the Church:
  - ii. Raising funds?
  - iii. Personal life: marriage, job, etc

**4. Not Everyone is Going to be Happy: Read v 12-15**

- a. David, after 3 long months of struggling with his relationship with the Lord, David was on the right track, he had repented and was fully committed to serving GOD his way: He couldn;t help but be joyful!
- b. Notice what v 16 Michal *despised* david:
  - i. can you imagine! 20-23
  - ii. She really lets him have it! This isn;t how a king behaves! This certainly isn;t how daddy did things!
  - iii. David had already had enough of trying to serve God David's way, he certainly wasn't going to do it her way! He didn;t care what she thought, only what the righteous thought v 22
- c. What we've talked about tonight is going to make you a strange person: Taking care to the details, having a healthy fear of God, showing caution to make sure your getting it right: you will stick out-- and not everyone is going to like it!
  - i. Make your mind up that you don't care of those around you hold you in light esteem: you are worried about serving God His way.