

In our last lesson, David was finally established as the king over all Israel. Others who sought personal advancement and favor with David savagely murdered Ishbosheth. However, David acted in defense of Israel and had these men put to death. He then was anointed as king over all Israel with his reign established in Jerusalem. This was the most important piece of real estate in the world according to the Scriptures.

The Philistines then arose against David once they realized he was no longer just a small figure in the world. God led Israel to great victory through direct attack and by setting an ambush to clean up the remnant after God disposed of them Himself. They learned through this that David was indeed the one whom God had chosen to shepherd His people Israel. It was evident that God did this to establish His people as He saw best, and that trusting in Him leads to victory. We also saw how this is true for us as we walk with and abide in our Great Shepherd as Lord of our lives.

In this lesson, we will see how David sought to establish Jerusalem as not only the physical capital of Israel, but the spiritual capital as well. He attempted to accomplish this by bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to where it belonged. Let's see what we can learn from the things that happened as a result.

## DAY 1

### Doing the Right Thing Wrongly

#### 2 SAMUEL 6:1-5

Please Read 2 Samuel 6:1-5 and answer the following questions.

[ 1 ] After successful victory over the Philistines, David wanted to further establish the kingdom both physically and spiritually. What did he decide to do in view of this (vv. 1-2)? What details does 1 Chronicles 13:1-6 add about this?

---

---

---

---

Note: The phrase choice men means that they were specially selected after a careful, well thought out choice, not just randomly selecting some representatives of the people.<sup>1</sup>

[ 2 ] How was the movement of the ark handled (vv. 3-4)?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] How does verse 5 describe the wonderful procession?

---

---

---

## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

There is no question that desiring to have the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem as the center of Israel's worship was the right thing. It had been in the house of Abinadab for almost a century after its capture and return by the Philistines.<sup>2</sup> Baale Judah (Kirjath Jearim) was about 10 miles west of Jerusalem. Ahio and Uzzah, Abinadab's grandsons, now attended the Ark.<sup>3</sup> However, there was a two-fold problem with how David did this: he didn't seem to pray and seek God's will; he only sought the will of men. Secondly, he failed to understand the holiness of what he was doing.

[ 1 ] The Ark was a sanctified object that represented the place of humanity's meeting with God (Exodus 25:22). It was to be treated with great reverence and care.

What do the following passages warn about the handling and mishandling of the Ark, and ultimately the holiness of God (Leviticus 10:1-3; Numbers 4:14-15; 1 Samuel 6:19-20)?

---

---

---

[ 2 ] Perhaps David spent so much time among the Philistines that he adopted their method of transporting the Ark on a cart, rather than how God's Law said.<sup>4</sup> As Scofield well said, "The story of David's new cart and its results is a striking illustration of the spiritual truth that blessing does not follow even the best intentions in the service of God, except as that service is rendered in God's way."<sup>5</sup>

How can we as believers today avoid the same mistakes that David made here?

Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2

---

---

---

John 15:7-8; Jude 1:20

---

---

---

Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16

---

---

---

**Daily Life Point:** Alan Redpath said,

This is the thing that matters most in the life of a Christian: that the ungrieved Holy Spirit is indwelling his life in power and authority...To desire the presence of the Lord is always a good thing, but I am confident that our desire is not always accompanied by an understanding of the significance of His presence with us.<sup>6</sup>

Have you ever had an experience like David, doing the right thing but in the wrong way or wrong timing? Perhaps you have failed to seek God's perfect will about something that seemed obvious and then had to learn the hard way?

If you have, what are some things you gleaned today that can help you avoid such a mistake in the future? Please share your experience or thoughts about this with your group.

---

---

---

---

---

### **MEMORY PASSAGE**

This week we will memorize 1 Peter 1:15-16. Review the passage several times throughout each day. By the end of the week, you should have it memorized.

**But as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV)**

### **DAY 2**

Doing the Wrong Thing Wrongly  
**2 SAMUEL 6:6-11**

*Please Read 2 Samuel 6:6-11 and answer the following questions*

[ 1 ] Perhaps you picked up a hint of a coming problem when verse 3 mentioned that the Ark would have been coming down a hill. What happened as they proceeded (vv. 6-7)?

---

---

---

[ 2 ] How did David react emotionally to this traumatic event (vv. 8-10)?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] What was the positive result for Obed-Edom (v. 11)?

---

---

---

## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] The Lord's anger was aroused (like the heat of a fire right after kindling)<sup>7</sup> when Uzzah tried to stabilize the toppling Ark, and he was instantly killed because of his "error." While it was the wrong thing to do, costing him his life, the Hebrew word for error implies something done out of ignorance or a negligent action.<sup>8</sup> So it doesn't mean he was rebelling against God.

Had the holy become so familiar to Uzzah that he didn't care or pay attention? We don't know for sure, but we must make every effort to treat as holy that which is holy, and never to cheapen the holiness of God. This is what happened to Israel in the wilderness. They became overly familiar with the holiness of God, and becoming hardened and disobedient, which brought about their own demise (1 Corinthians 10:5-6).

How must we seek to make every day new with the Lord, not succumbing to indifference to His holiness (Psalm 61:8; Proverbs 8:32-36; Luke 9:23)?

---

---

---

---

[ 2 ] David emotionally reacted to this trauma, which is a part of human nature. He was angry at God's interrupting his plans, if you boil right down to it. This anger then led to fear, and fear led to being immobilized and unwilling to act. There is nothing wrong with having emotional reactions to life's traumas. We all experience conflicts when we have un-reached goals, external circumstances beyond our ability to control, or fear of failure blocks our way.<sup>9</sup> But we can't let it reach a stage like it did for David, becoming immobilized and unwilling to act because of feelings. Remember, A problem met by a biblical response leads to a solution which strengthens one's ability to solve new problems. The downward cycle enslaves one in hopelessness and guilt, thus bringing on a slowing down or cessation of activity, called depression.<sup>10</sup>

What are some ways that the following passages encourage and help us respond biblically when faced with such crises?

Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14

---

---

---

---

Isaiah 41:10; 43:2

---

---

---

---

2 Corinthians 1:3-5; 4:7-11, 16-18

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Daily Life Point:** September 11, 2001 was a day of horrific trauma for the United States. In many ways it was like the events of the Great Tribulation, symbolic of the mass destruction that will one day hit our world, with men's hearts failing them for fear of the ultimate judgment and battle of Armageddon (Luke 21:25-28). Yet we all will face our own personal "Ground Zero" at one point or another, whether it is the death of a loved one, a diagnosis of cancer, severe family problems, or other traumatic losses or incidents. Even Christians are not exempt from their own "personal Armageddon" in this life.<sup>11</sup> Meditate on the following thoughts passed on by Charles Swindoll, as well as the things we have examined today:

Here is the first truth to claim when enduring the consequences of suffering: Nothing touches me that has not passed through the hands of my heavenly Father . . . The second truth to claim is this: Everything I endure is designed to prepare me for serving others more effectively. Everything.<sup>12</sup>

Now record how these words comfort you in view of life in a corrupt world:

---

---

---

---

### **MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

**But as He who \_\_\_\_\_ you is holy, you also be holy in all your  
\_\_\_\_\_, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."**

**(1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV)**

### **DAY 3**

Doing the Right Thing Rightly  
**2 SAMUEL 6:12-15**

Please Read 2 Samuel 6:12-15 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] What was it that awakened David out of his immobility and back into action about the Ark (v. 12)?

---

---

---

[ 2 ] What proper procedure did he follow that exceeded what was required (v. 13)? What does 1 Chronicles 15:12-16 add about the procedures he followed?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] How do verses 14-15 describe the attitude with which the Ark was brought home?

---

---

---

## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

[ 1 ] Now David did the right thing the right way. Seeing the blessing of God on Obed-Edom gave David greater courage to trust God and to do this appropriately, respecting His holiness. According to the following passages, what are some further things we need to do to respect and submit to God's holiness?

Romans 6:5-6, 11-13

---

---

---

1 Corinthians 9:27

---

---

---

2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Timothy 2:22

---

---

---

---

[ 2 ] David's praise and worship was certainly exuberant. Dancing has long been part of Israel's culture. While it may not be appropriate to start doing a jig in the aisle during the next church service, our worship of the Lord should be exuberant and from the heart.

What do the following passages add about exuberant worship and what God is looking for in a worshipper?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Psalm 9:1-2

---

---

---

---

Psalm 66:1-2; 149:1-4; 150:1-6

---

---

---

---

John 4:23-24

---

---

---

---

Revelation 4:8-11

---

---

---

---

The right thing done in the right way and right timing always brings about blessing. It is an occasion for worship with our whole heart, mind, and strength. Charles Swindoll again helps us put all this into the proper perspective:

Do nothing until it's right. Then do it with all your might . . . When we begin to care about the things God cares about, we become people after His heart, and only then do we begin to have real freedom and real happiness.<sup>13</sup>

How is your own personal worship life? Exuberant? Good? Mediocre? Almost non-existent? How can you add personal times of worship throughout your day, and become more like David, seeking to worship and honor God with your whole heart? Please share some thoughts about this and discuss them with your group so all can benefit.

---

---

---

---

---

### **MEMORY PASSAGE**

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

But as He who \_\_\_\_\_ you is \_\_\_\_\_, you also be \_\_\_\_\_ in all your \_\_\_\_\_, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

(1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV)

### **DAY 4**

Blessings to the People  
**2 SAMUEL 6:16-19**

Please Read 2 Samuel 6:16-19 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] How do verses 17-18 describe the establishment of the Ark in Jerusalem?

---

---

---

[ 2 ] What blessings did David extend to the people (v. 19)?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] What was going on in David's own home as he danced and leapt unto the Lord with all his might (v. 16)?

---

---

---

## **EXPANDED QUESTIONS**

David himself was blessed as he returned the Ark and capped it off with an even greater sacrifice. He then turned to bless the people in the name of the Lord. The Hebrew word for blessed implies kneeling to invoke or receive a blessing,<sup>14</sup> thus David humbled himself to do so. The New Scofield Study Bible tells us that when David distributed bread and a portion of meat to the people, it could possibly be translated as bread and a portion of wine.<sup>15</sup> If this is the case, then there are strong parallels between the priesthood of Melchizedek and David, acting in the same capacity as a priest although not in the Levitical lineage.<sup>16</sup> Some may interpret that David also served as a type of Christ by bringing the mercy seat and place of fellowship of God with His people back to them to access.

[ 1 ] What are some interesting ways these following passages instruct us to humble ourselves and become a blessing to those around us, despite how they act toward us or treat us?

Matthew 5:44-45

---

---

---

Romans 12:14-18; 14:19

---

---

---

Ephesians 4:29-32; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

---

---

---

[ 2 ] These sacrifices were at best temporary. God's true desire from His people was never just the external sacrifice. What was God looking for from those who sought Him in such a way (1 Samuel 15:22; Isaiah 1:11-20)?

---

---

---

**Daily Life Point:** It is easy to be a blessing to those who bless us. What is more difficult is to bless those who are a challenge in our lives! Yet this is part of our obedience to the Lord. It is something that He sees as important, or else it wouldn't have been stressed as much in the New Testament. In effect, God said to the Old Testament believer, I don't want your multiple sacrifices without your heart as well: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8 NKJV). What are some practical ways you can be a blessing for someone this week, regardless of who they are or what they've done? Talk about some plans of how to do this in your group, pray through your plans, and share again next week how things went with this, and see how God used you all to bless and touch others for His kingdom.

---

---

---

## MEMORY PASSAGE

Fill in the blanks by memory. Then review the passage several times throughout the week.

But as He who \_\_\_\_\_ you is \_\_\_\_\_, you also be \_\_\_\_\_ in all your \_\_\_\_\_, because it is \_\_\_\_\_, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV)

## DAY 5

### Cursing in the Home 2 SAMUEL 6:20-23

Please Read 2 Samuel 6:20-23 and answer the following questions

[ 1 ] We last left Michal peering out of a window. It's ironic that in their early marriage, Michal had let David out a window to save his life; now she was seeing him worship out the window and despised him!<sup>17</sup> The word despise means to disesteem, think vile and scorn, and condemn.<sup>18</sup> What wonderful greeting did David receive when he returned to bless his own house (v. 20)?

---

---

[ 2 ] How did David respond to this (vv. 21-22)?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] What was the sad result for this daughter of Saul (v. 23)?

---

---

---

## EXPANDED QUESTIONS

[ 1 ] Don't get the wrong idea from Michal's statements about David's clothing or lack thereof. "Uncovering himself" was Michal's derogatory reference to David's wearing the priestly garments instead of his royal garments.<sup>19</sup> This did not mean that he was running around in his underwear! It was not out of some sexually perverse impulse that David did these things, but out of zeal for the Lord.<sup>20</sup> David knew he was in the right, and it didn't matter what she said about him. Whenever we face criticism, no matter the source, we need to leave it in God's hands.<sup>21</sup>

What does Psalm 37:1-8 tell us about dealing with these sorts of things? How does it tie in with the things we read yesterday about being a blessing?

---

---

---

---

[ 2 ] David indirectly prophesied of the bareness of his once beloved wife. Having a barren womb was obviously considered a curse in this culture. This was no doubt an act of God's judgment rather than the neglect of David to produce children with her.<sup>22</sup>

Why does this remind us of the importance of passages such as Proverbs 24:17-20 and Romans 12:19-21?

---

---

---

---

**Daily Life Point:** As we read Psalm 37, the key to being victorious over those who bring us grief is not to allow ourselves to fret, but to be at rest in Jesus. We need to trust Him, dwell with Him, delight ourselves in Him, and cast all of our burdens onto Him. Fretting only causes us physical, mental, and spiritual harm. What are some of the circumstances in your life that have found you tempted to worry and fret rather than trusting and abiding?

How can you make plans to avoid the trap of worry and fretting about what others think or how they treat you? In view of all this, what should your attitude be toward criticism, whether or not it is correct?

---

---

---

---

## **MEMORY PASSAGE**

From memory, write out this week's passage below. Then review the passage throughout the day.

**1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV:**

**DAY 6**

Pursuing God's Heart

[ 1 ] The whole misadventure of trying to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem the incorrect way was so easily preventable that it simply escaped David's attention. This was not the last time David made mistakes that led to the loss of someone's life. As Warren Wiersbe succinctly pointed out, "When all else fails, take time to read God's instructions!"<sup>23</sup>

How has examining David's failure helped you to better evaluate your view God's holiness? How has it helped you to evaluate your responsibility to walk in obedience to God's Word, no matter how right it seems at the time? How will this make a difference in your life personally? "The very best proof of your love for your Lord is obedience-nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."<sup>24</sup>

---

---

---

[ 2 ] After doing the right thing the right way, David learned that he can be a blessing both to God in worship and to others by giving himself and denying himself. He got beyond his emotional downswing and pressed on. It is so easy to blame God when problems come along. Until we take steps to follow His plans biblically, we will wallow in depression.

Are there any areas of emotional struggles that can occasionally trip you up and keep you from being effective for God's kingdom? How has this week's study made a difference for you in facing your struggles, getting back up, and pressing? How can your group be praying for you in all of this?

---

---

---

[ 3 ] Lastly, is there anything else that has ministered to you especially over this week's study? If so, please record it here and share it with your group.

---

---

---

## ***MEMORY PASSAGE***

You are now able to write out this week's passage by memory. Do so now, and then review it and be ready to share it with others in your group time.

**1 Peter 1:15-16 NKJV:**

## ***PARTING THOUGHTS***

It is likely that David wrote several psalms during this time period, including Psalm 18, 24, 68, and 132.<sup>25</sup> Psalm 24 was most likely written to speak of the Lord of Glory figuratively coming into Jerusalem as symbolized by the Ark. James Boice pointed out that this was a psalm usually sung on the first day of the week (Sunday). It would thus have been fittingly sung as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; it was clearly a Messianic prophecy in the form of celebration written long before by David.<sup>26</sup> C. H. Spurgeon also felt this to be true:

The words are not unsuitable for the sacred dance of joy in which David led the way upon that joyful occasion. The eye of the Psalmist looked, however, beyond the typical upgoing of the ark to the sublime ascension of the King of glory ... the ascent of the true Redeemer, who has opened heaven's gates for the entrance of the elect.<sup>27</sup>

Let's close this week by meditating on this wonderful psalm and think through the things that David had learned about our King of Glory and His holiness.

Psalm 24  
A Psalm of David.

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell therein.  
For He has founded it upon the seas,  
And established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?  
Or who may stand in His holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,  
Nor sworn deceitfully.  
He shall receive blessing from the Lord,  
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,  
Who seek Your face. Selah

Lift up your heads, O you gates!  
And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty,  
The Lord mighty in battle.  
Lift up your heads, O you gates!  
Lift up, you everlasting doors!  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts,  
He is the King of glory. Selah

## NOTES

- 1 Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, Tenn.: AMG, 1994), p. 2304.
- 2 *Ibid.*, p. 821.
- 3 John MacArthur, ed., *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word, 1997), p. 434.
- 4 Warren W. Wiersbe, *With the Word Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas, 1993), p. 390.
- 5 *The New Scofield Study Bible, NKJV* (Nashville: Nelson, 1989), p. 374.
- 6 Alan Redpath, *The Making of a Man of God* (Old Tappan, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell, 1962), p. 158.
- 7 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2318.
- 8 *Ibid.*, p. 2374.
- 9 Lawrence J. Crabb, Jr., *Effective Biblical Counseling* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1982), p. 127.
- 10 Jay E. Adams, *The Christian Counselor's Manual* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1973), p. 375.
- 11 Billy Graham, *Till Armageddon: A Perspective on Suffering* (Waco: Word, 1981), p. 25.
- 12 Charles R. Swindoll, *Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living* (Waco: Word, 1981), p. 189.
- 13 Charles R. Swindoll, *David, A Man of Passion and Destiny* (Dallas: Word, 1997), pp. 148, 150.
- 14 Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study*, p. 2307.
- 15 *The New Scofield Study Bible*, p. 375.
- 16 Robert D. Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel. *The New American Commentary*, vol. 7 (Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996), pp. 332-333.
- 17 Ronald F. Youngblood, 1, 2 Samuel. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1992), p. 875.
- 18 James Strong, "A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Hebrew Bible; With Their Renderings in the Authorized English Version," in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1890 Reprint), p. 19.
- 19 MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 435.
- 20 Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, p. 333.
- 21 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 391.
- 22 Bergen, 1, 2 Samuel, p. 334.
- 23 Wiersbe, *With the Word*, p. 391.
- 24 Swindoll, *David*, p. 156.
- 25 F.B. Meyer, *The Life of David*, (Lynwood, Wash.: Emerald, 1995), pp. 148, 150.
- 26 James M. Boice, *Psalms*, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1994), p. 214-215.
- 27 C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David*, vol. 1 (Nashville: Nelson, Undated Reprint), p. 374.

