

Lessons in Obedience:

David and the Ark of the Covenant

(2 Samuel 6:1-19, 1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 12-15)

- Introduction:
1. (Romans 15:4).
 2. In this lesson, we are going to examine the nature of obedience through the context of the ark of the covenant.

I. Background To The Text

- A. For many years, the ark of the covenant was moved from place to place, but when David became King, he decided to bring the ark to Jerusalem.
- B. So in order to get the cart to Jerusalem expeditiously, they placed the ark on a cart pulled by oxen.
- E. It was a time of great rejoicing, however, somewhere along the way, the oxen stumbled and Uzzah reached out to steady the ark, and was struck dead.
- G. David, angered, set the project aside for three months, then finally completed the task.

II. Lessons To Be Learned From This Account

- A. God demands strict obedience.
 1. Many think a God is not concerned about the details.
 2. (1 Samuel 15:22) to obey is better than sacrifice.
 3. (Genesis 6:8, 14; Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:9).
 8. Mercy won't cover intentional disobedience (Mt. 16:22-23).
- B. Convenience does not trump the word of God.
 1. Fifteen miles is a long way to carry a heavy ark on one's shoulders.
 2. Baptism, Lord's Supper, Music, etc.
- C. Feelings Do Not Determine Truth
 1. They were rejoicing and having a great time until God's judgment fell upon them.
 2. (Proverbs 14:12; 2 King 5:11).
- D. Good intentions do not excuse disobedience.
 1. Surely, Uzzah's intentions were good.
 2. But so were the intentions of others (Acts 23:1; Genesis 19:26).
- E. Notice the goodness and severity of God
 1. Severity upon Uzzah for his disobedience.
 2. Goodness upon the house of Obed-Edom (2 Samuel 6:12).
 3. (Romans 11:22) Goodness and severity of God.
- F. Notice the attitude of David.
 1. At first, he is angry of God because of the consequences of sin.
 - a. (Proverbs 13:15) Way of the transgressor is hard.
 2. Then humility.
 - a. He acknowledges his sin (1 Chronicles 15:13).
 - b. He honored God (2 Samuel 6:13).

- Conclusion:
1. Obedience is serious business.
 2. Not all we offer as obedience really is.
 3. May we learn from David's mistake.