

Good morning, I, Grantley have the joy of sharing with you this morning. This morning, I would like to share a passage that really impacted me.

In 2 Samuel 6 we read “David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. ² He and all his men went to Baalah^[a] in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name,^[b] the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark.

³ They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God on it,^[c] and Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵ David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets,^[d] harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷ The LORD’s anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

To understand the weight of this moment, we must look back at history. Years earlier, Saul and the Israelites brought the Ark into battle against the Philistines as a good-luck charm. They were heavily defeated, Eli’s wicked sons (Hophni and Phinehas) were killed, and the Philistines captured the Ark, taking it back as a trophy to the temple of their god, Dagon, in Ashdod.

The next morning, the statue of Dagon was found bowed face-down before the Ark. When put back, it fell again and broke completely. Furthermore, a severe outbreak of tumours and a deadly swarm of rats afflicted Ashdod and subsequent Philistine cities where the Ark was moved.

Panic-stricken by the devastation after about seven months, the Philistine rulers placed the Ark on a new cart pulled by two milk-cows, alongside guilt offerings of gold, and let the cows wander freely. The cows went straight to the Israeli border town of Beth-Shemesh.

The local Israelites rejoiced, but some men looked inside the Ark—violating God’s laws—resulting in a sudden plague that struck down many of the

people. Terrified, the people of Beth-Shemesh sent word to the nearby town of Kiriath-jearim to come take it where it remained safely housed and cared for roughly 20 years

In this passage, we read that David, and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD and yet all their enthusiasm and zeal landed up with the death of Uzzah. So, what went wrong? They were bringing the most holy ark to its final resting place in Jerusalem, surely God would be pleased with them, yet we see the opposite, why?

David was doing the exact same thing the Philistines had done putting the Ark on a new cart to transport it. The problem was that God had explicitly specified in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy that the Ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites. David was following the cultural pattern of the Philistines instead of doing things God's way.

Initially, everything seemed to go well. The plan appeared to be working—until they hit a bump in the road, and in an instant, disaster struck.

It is so easy for us to attempt God's work using the worldly plans and methods around us, rather than inquiring of God on how He wants us to proceed. The goal was good, but the method was disastrous. Just as we live our lives as living sacrifices to God, we must ensure our methods are not merely imitating the world but are aligned strictly with His will.

Several years ago, the organization I work for, Operation Mobilisation, encouraged us to find a pension plan for our retirement. The idea looked good to me, so I found a broker who helped me set it up.

About 12 years later, upon contacting the broker, I discovered to my horror that had I simply kept the money under my pillow, I would have had more than what was left in the fund. I had effectively been throwing my money down a hole. I immediately stopped the plan and withdrew the measly sum at the first available opportunity.

My mistake was that I, just like King David, did what seemed right in my own eyes without consulting God.

Rom 12 verse one tells us “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Here I was, conforming to the pattern of this world instead of seeking God’s unique plan for my life, and that lapse cost me dearly in a useless pension plan.

I am not saying that a pension plan is inherently wrong, nor do I know what path God would have laid out had I waited on Him. However, it is remarkably easy to slip into relying on human wisdom rather than seeking God’s divine guidance.

If we are truly God’s servants, should we not actively seek His direction and walk in His ways, rather than simply following the patterns of the world around us?

Let Us Pray

Father, forgive me for the times I forget to ask You for wisdom and instead follow the advice and systems of those around me. Help me remember that I am primarily Your child and Your servant. Guide me to follow Your ways so that Your name may be glorified through my actions. Amen.

Have a blessed day!