



(Like David) A Woman After God's Own Heart #6 Sweating the small stuff (2 Sam. 6)

I. The Ark of the Covenant

- A. God directed Moses to make a "coffin" ("aron") of acacia wood, of precise dimensions (approx. 4' x 2' x 2'), overlay it within and without with gold and put rings of gold on the corners.
See Ex. 25:10-22 and Deut. 10:2-5.
- B. This chest was to contain:
 - 1. Golden jar of manna – symbolizing God's provision for his people
 - 2. Aaron's budding rod – symbolizing how God had saved them
 - 3. The two tables of stone – symbolizing how God had commanded them
- C. The ark was made after the golden calf was destroyed (Deut. 10:1), it was set up in the tabernacle and there God promised to meet with Moses (and thereafter the high priest).
- D. The ark traveled with the children of Israel:
 - 1. In the wilderness journeys (Num. 10:33)
 - 2. As they crossed the river Jordan (Josh. 3)
 - 3. In the days of Eli, it was in the tabernacle at Shiloh (Isaiah 3:3)
 - 4. Captured by the Philistines (1 Sam. 4:3-22)
 - 5. Sent back to Beth-shemesh (1 Sam. 5)
 - 6. Removed to Kirjath-jearim (Hebron) (1 Sam. 6:19-21)
 - 7. Eventually moved to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6, 1 Chron. 13 and 15)
 - 8. The priests brought the ark into Solomon's temple (1 Kings 8:3-9)
- E. The children of Israel are an historical people who understand symbols, types and pictures. The ark is a display of God's presence.

II. The Bible Passages

- A. The parallel accounts in 2 Sam. 6 and 1 Chron. 13, 15:6
- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 2 Sam. 6:1-11 | 1 Chron. 13:15-14 |
| 2 Sam.12-19 | 1 Chron. 15:25-16:3 |
| 2 Sam. 6:19-20 | 1 Chron. 16:43 |
- B. There are a number of Psalms that quote or refer to the events in 2 Samuel. Look at Ps. 24 and 68 regarding the procession of the ark. Look at Ps. 132 regarding the arrival of the ark. Look also at Ps. 47 and Ps. 99.
- C. The passage might be outlined:
1. David's unsuccessful attempt to transport the ark (6:1-5)
 2. Judgment against Uzzah (6:6-11)
 3. David's successful attempt to transport the ark (6:12-19)
 4. Judgment against Michal (6:20-23)

(Expositor's Bible Commentary, p. 868)

III. The Story

- A. David is a pragmatist, a decision maker. He wants the ark moved to Jerusalem. It's been gone for 30 years!
- B. The method earlier used by the Philistines (1 Sam. 6:7-8) was employed. Abinadab's sons guided the cart. Ahio walking in front and Uzzah probably bringing up the rear.
- Note: The ark was to be carried on the shoulders of the Levites (Ex. 25, Num. 3 and 7, Deut. 10:8)
- C. God struck down Uzzah (his name means "strength") vs. 7 for touching the ark.
- Note: "Beware of God..." consider the deaths of Nadab and Abihu (Lev. 10) Achan (Josh. 7) Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5) all of whom "failed to take Yahweh's rule seriously."
- D. David gets angry with God (vs.8)
- E. David gets afraid of Almighty God (vs. 9)
- F. David takes a time out to "get it right." (vs. 10)
- Note: Obed-Edom is a Levite
- G. Three months later, after "seeking the Lord" (1 Chron. 15:1-13), David moves the ark. Every 6 paces, they stop to worship with a fatling. Note, too, that David is now wearing "a linen ephod" signifying his priestly functions (See. 1 Kings 8:64, 9:25)
- H. Ultimately David dances with delight

IV. So What? Note these important principles:

- A. "God is not tame" (*Chronicles of Narnia*)
 - B. How we do things is as important as what to do. Pay attention to God's details.
Example: Looking into the Ark (1 Sam. 6:19, Num. 4:20)
 - C. Take time to celebrate God's faithfulness.
-

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it ever possible to do "right things" in a wrong way?
2. Do you tend to spend more time and energy praying for things or thanking God afterwards?