

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Samuel 6:1-10**.
- B. Stories of certain events are in the holy Scriptures to teach us many lessons. Such is true of Uzzah and the ark of the covenant.
- C. Some may remember this ark as the searched for possession in the movie, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

I. THE ARK IS THE SYMBOL OF GOD'S PRESENCE.

- A. The dimensions and shape of the ark are described (Exo. 25:12-15; 37:1-5; Num. 7:9).
- B. Basically, the ark means four things:
 - 1. God's presence (in the mercy seat).
 - 2. God's mediation (in Aaron's rod).
 - 3. God's blessings (in the manna that never spoiled).
 - 4. God's word (in the copy of the Decalogue).
- C. The ark of the covenant was very important to the Jews, because of all it stood for.

II. DISOBEDIENCE LEADS TO DESTRUCTION.

- A. The Philistines stole the ark and had nothing but problems:
 - 1. Dagon fell to the ground.
 - 2. Dagon's head and hands fell off.
 - 3. The people had hemorrhoids, boils, etc.
- B. They returned the ark on a new cart, drawn by cows (1Sam. 6:7,8).
- C. David must have thought this to be a good idea for he decided to carry the ark in the same way (2Sam. 6:2,3).
- D. And it was this kind of disobedience that caused Uzzah to lose his life (2Samuel 6:6,7). Numbers 7:9 said to carry it on shoulders of the priests.
- E. The obvious lesson for us today is that we must do the things of God His way if we are to be pleasing unto Him.

III. GOD DOES PUNISH PEOPLE WHEN THEY SIN.

- A. Uzzah was struck dead, and Michal became barren (2Sam. 6:7,23).
- B. We may become angry at God for this kind of action, but we need to think it through (2Sam. 6:8; 1Chr. 15:13). After this, David then carried the ark correctly.
- C. We also remember that, "the way of the transgressor is hard" (Prov. 13:15).
- D. If we have God's, presence, mediation, blessings, and word what else do we need?

IV. IT IS POSSIBLE TO INTERPRET A GOOD THING AS BEING BAD.

- A. David became angry at God for what He did to Uzzah. God was being consistent in His actions and David didn't realize it.
- B. This means we might view something which is good as being bad.
- C. Think about the following:
 - 1. The flood and all the babies being killed, but they all missed that wicked society and went to Paradise.
 - 2. Joseph was betrayed and sold as a slave, but the long term effect was the saving of the Israelite nation from famine.
 - 3. The Hebrews wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, but it prepared them to become a people who could fight, and that they would have to do.

4. During the period of the judges the many lapses into sin eventually taught the people to learn righteousness.
 5. Jesus Christ died on the cross and shed His blood, but this act forgives man of his sins. (There could be other examples as well.)
- D. Even within our context Michal thought David was sinning when he danced for joy, but she was wrong.

CONCLUSION AN INVITATION.

- A. We have learned the following:
1. The ark of the covenant is the symbol of God's presence.
 2. Disobedience leads to destruction.
 3. God does discipline us when we sin.
 4. It is possible to interpret a good thing as being bad.
- B. Let us obey God.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.