



October 12, 2025  
*A Man After God's Heart*  
**Happy to be God's Fool**  
2 Samuel 6:1-23

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Have you ever bought something with “some assembly required” and assumed you could put it together without referring to the instructions? How did it turn out? Did you have to backtrack in order to install a part because it could only be done as an earlier step? Did one or more bad experiences change the way you regard instruction?
- b. For some of our parents or grandparents, VE and VJ days at the end of WWII were among their most memorable celebrations. What is yours? What is your favorite way to celebrate? Do celebrations take different forms based on the event being celebrated?
- c. What was the most elaborate public celebration you've ever attended? What made the celebration special?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
  - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
  - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. Least Reached People Group: **Kamalia of India** (*from the IMB “Loving the Lost Through Prayer” guide.*)

“The Kamalia (kuh-MAHlee-uh) live in the western part of the Indian state of Gujarat, far from the big cities. Some among the Kamalia sell metal idols that they believe will bring healing to anyone who prays to them. The full Bible and many audio and video gospel resources are available in Gujarati, the language that the Kamalia speak. Still, most Kamalia practice Hinduism. Less than 2% of them believe in Jesus and have the hope of eternal life with God. Ask God to make a way for the Kamalia to hear and respond to the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus.”

3. **Sermon Key Points:**

- a. God's Holiness Is Serious Business!
  - i. Uzziah died because David and his advisers didn't read God's instructions
  - ii. Take God's holiness seriously!
- b. Worship God Wholeheartedly Without Concern for What Others Think
  - i. David later followed instructions and worshiped fervently as the ark was carried into Jerusalem
  - ii. Worship wholeheartedly!
- c. Don't Condemn Authentic Worship, Even If It Isn't Your Taste

- i. David's wife condemned how his worship looked and suffered for it
- ii. Be very careful about judging the worship of others

#### 4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
  - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
  - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
  - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
  - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
  - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
  - i. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-2 and 1 Chronicles 13:1-6.
  - ii. Chapter 6 continues a storyline that started back in 1 Samuel 4:10-11. What had happened to the ark of God?
  - iii. The story continued in 1 Samuel 5:1-6:15.
    1. How did God demonstrate the holiness of the ark and His presence to the Philistines?
    2. How was the ark returned to Israel?
  - iv. Scan through 1 Samuel 6:19-7:2.
    1. Despite their initial celebration and sacrifices, what happened to the men of Bethshemesh? Why (see Numbers 4:4-20, especially verse 20)?
    2. Where did the ark end up? What is done differently at this location? What does it mean to consecrate someone (see Leviticus 11:44-45)?
  - v. Although it had been over 75 years since the ark was captured and returned (1080 BC – 1005 BC), what reason did David have for bringing it to his capital, Jerusalem (see especially 1 Chronicles 13:3)?
    1. In making this decision, what characteristic action does David appear to have skipped (compare 1 Samuel 23:1-4, 23:9-12, and 2 Samuel 2:1)?
    2. What practical lesson can we learn from David's experience about when we need to seek God's will?
- c. **Tuesday:**
  - i. Read 2 Samuel 6:3-7 and 1 Chronicles 13:7-10.
  - ii. How did David decide to move the ark? What support did he have in doing this (1 Chronicles 13:4)?
    1. What do you think they thought they were doing by using a new cart?
    2. In fact, whose practices were they imitating (see 1 Samuel 6:7a)? Whose commands were they disobeying (see Ezekiel 27:6-7 and Numbers 4:14-15)?

3. When it comes to God's commands, what significance is there in the fact that something "seems right to all the people"? What are some modern-day applications of this that you see demonstrated in our society?
- iii. God's execution of Uzzah is one of those difficult passages against which our modern sensibilities often rebel. What did Uzzah do that deserved death? What were his apparent motives for doing so?
  1. What does this example teach us about the well-used expression, "the end justifies the means"?
  2. Uzzah was apparently trying to prevent the ark from being contaminated by falling on the ground, but from God's perspective, which will most contaminate the ark, inanimate soil or a disobedient sinner?
  3. Reading between the lines, how can we see both God's justice and God's grace at work? Is it just for God to punish sin when He wants and not give a sinner additional opportunity to repent? Since the ark had been placed on the new cart and was being moved by the actions of others (at least Ahio), how is God's grace being demonstrated? Absent grace, who else would have/should have died?

*d. Wednesday:*

- i. Read 2 Samuel 6:8-11 and 1 Chronicles 13:11-14
- ii. What was David's reaction to Uzzah's death?
  1. There is no indication in Scripture that David had any relationship/friendship with Uzzah, so what do you think caused him to be angry?
  2. In becoming angry with God, what was he upset about: Uzzah's family's loss or the damage to his reputation?
  3. How does his anger demonstrate that David has temporarily moved from a total reliance on God (demonstrated during his years on the run from Saul) to a period of self-reliance?
  4. How does his response correspond to the way modern man responds to God's judgment?
- iii. Why was David "afraid of the Lord that day"? We tend to view "fear" from a negative perspective, but the Bible presents a "fear of the Lord" as an outstanding trait. See, for example, Psalm 2:11, 15:4, 19:9, 25:12-14, 33:8, 34:7-9, 86:11, 103:13, 111:10, 112:1, 115:11-13, 128:1 & 4, and 147:11. Based on these verses, how do you think our churches might change if more emphasis were placed on an appropriate "fear of the Lord"?

*e. Thursday:*

- i. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-15 and 1 Chronicles 15:1-28.
- ii. How does God appear to have worked in David's life during the three months the ark was with Obed-Edom?
- iii. What did David do differently before beginning the second attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem?
  1. Who was selected for the task, and how was the ark to be moved?

2. What was done by the priests and Levites before starting the move?
  - iv. Read 2 Samuel 6:13 carefully. Who is the “he” that sacrificed? According to the Law of Moses, who was authorized to make sacrifices? How is David acting in a manner that pictures Jesus, the Son of David (see Hebrews 6:20, 7:23-24, and 8:1-2)?
- f. **Friday:**
- i. Read 2 Samuel 6:16-19 and 1 Chronicles 15:29-16:3.
  - ii. What explanations might you give for Michal's attitude?
    1. How is Michal identified in these verses? How is she not identified? How is her husband identified? How does the author's selection of these titles offer a suggestion about Michal's mindset?
    2. Where was Michal during the celebration of the ark's arrival? Where would we expect she would have been? What lesson might we gather from this to apply in our age? Does anyone have the “right” to criticize the style of worship in which they are not participating?
    3. Think about David's great sin (which will be the topic in a few weeks). Why do we often find ourselves sinning when we are not where we should be?
  - iii. While the focus is often on David's dancing when studying these passages, how do his actions after offering the sacrifices compare with what we experience in a worship service? How does David demonstrate the principles Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 14:33 & 40?
- g. **Saturday:**
- i. Read 2 Samuel 6:20-23.
  - ii. What does Michal accuse David of doing? Does 1 Chronicles 15:27 support Michal's accusations? In what sense is Michal being hypocritical by complaining about David being “uncovered”? (see 1 Samuel 19:24)?
  - iii. How did David respond to Michal? In what manner does David's response reflect what Jesus taught us in Luke 14:25-27? Even in view of the importance God assigns to family, where must our first loyalty always be placed?
  - iv. Verse 23 can be understood to attribute Michal's barrenness to one or both of two explanations. What are they? Who gets the “credit” for each? Which do you think applies?

## 5. Application:

- a. In our worship in 2025, we often focus almost exclusively on God's *love*, and it is something we should certainly be praising Him for. But God is also *just*, and He rightly expects that all of His commands be obeyed. The Bible frequently reminds us of His power and authority to pronounce judgment when we fail to obey. This is often seen at the beginning of a new period in the Biblical narrative (e.g., Leviticus 10, Joshua 6-7, the focal passage, and Acts 5), as if to remind us that one thing does not change: God expects His people to obey His Word. And this passage shows that the obedience He expects means doing things the way He commands – not the way the world would suggest is most efficient.
- b. Our worship is offered to God, and what matters is the attitude of our heart, which only He sees, and not what others feel is appropriate. “God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24 ESV).