

GOD'S GRACIOUS ANGER - 6

Pursuing God's Own Heart: Lessons From the Life of David

"You have turned my
wailing into dancing;
you removed my
sackcloth and clothed
me with joy, that my
heart may sing to you
and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will
give you thanks forever."
- Psalm 30:11-12

"Have you been a little
careless in your
reverence for God?
Remember: You can
experience true joy
only through obedience
to Him."

Fast forward. Saul and Jonathan are dead. Eventually, all Israel transfers its allegiance to David as their rightful ruler. After making Jerusalem his new capital, David wastes no time retrieving the Ark of the Covenant. It seems the people of Israel had all but forgotten it. However David wanted its return to a prominent place as an acknowledgement of God's kingship and rule over both himself and all the people.

Welcome

Do you have a family heirloom that is particularly valuable to you? Explain.

Word

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11

1. What was the Ark of the Covenant and why does David send for the ark at this particular time? [For additional details, read the parallel account provided in 1 Chronicles 13 & 15.]
2. Uzzah's act of taking hold of the ark seems well intentioned (vs 6), so why is it spoken of as "*irreverent*" (vs 7)? How could the tragedy have been prevented? [Ex. 25:12-14; Num. 4:5-6, 15 provide instruction about the proper handling of the Ark.]
3. What two emotions did David feel toward God in response to His judgment on Uzzah (vs 8-9)? Have you ever been in situations in which you felt similar feelings toward God? Explain.
4. How did David allow his anger and fear to motivate him to seek more insight into the heart of God?

Read 2 Samuel 6:12-23

5. Why do you think David danced so energetically when the ark came to Jerusalem? How does David respond to his wife's criticism in verses 21-22? What does this tell you about David's character?
6. What do you learn from this passage about being a person after God's heart? What response does God expect from you?

Worship

Read Hebrews 12:14-29 as a part of your devotional time together. Ask, "What is the point of comparison between Mount Sinai (vv 18-21) and Mount Zion (vv 22-24)?" "What is the "better word" (v 24) in contrast to "no further word" (v 19)?" How does this passage call you to praise and yet, at the same time, a godly sense of reverence and awe? Some possible songs: 47—"Holy, Holy, Holy," 96—"I Stand in Awe," 60—"He is Exalted," 62—"I Exalt Thee," 64—"I Worship You, Almighty God," 100 and 101—"Holy Ground."

Works

No awe of God leads to the death of man. God won't be cajoled, commanded, conjured up, or called down. He doesn't respond to magic potions or clever slogans. He looks for more. He looks for reverence, obedience, and God-hungry hearts.