

*David and the Ark*  
*1 Chronicles 15:12-15*

Theme: Obedience

Aim: To show the need to consult God's Word to see how we should go about doing His will.

1. During George Washington's lengthy absences from his plantation home of Mount Vernon, he wrote to his overseer with extensive and detailed instructions as to building and planting.
2. Do you think he had the right to expect his wishes and instructions to be heeded and followed?
3. If they were not, would he have been justified in disciplining the overseer?

I. Before we take a look at the verses that served as our reading, let's look at another passage in 2 Samuel.

A. First we must set the stage.

1. David had been declared king over all of Israel, 2 Samuel 5:1-5.
2. David had taken the city of Jerusalem, 2 Samuel 5:6-16.
3. He had solidified his rule in Jerusalem by defeating the arch enemies of Israel, the Philistines, 2 Samuel 5:17-25.
4. Now he seeks to bring the ark of God into the city of Jerusalem

B. Now let's read: 2 Samuel 6:1-11.

1. The attempt to do so was not successful. One person lost his life in the attempt.
2. What had begun as a time of great joy turned into one of sadness.

C. But then we read 2 Samuel 6:12-15.

1. This time the ark was safely brought into the city.
2. It was a time of great joy and celebration, 1 Chronicles 15:25-29.
3. David expressed his joy and thanksgiving with the poems recorded in 1 Chronicles 16:7-36 and the book of Psalms.
4. What was different? What changed a task that resulted in tragedy to one that resulted in joy?

II. Two things.

A. 1 Chronicles 15:12-15. David consulted the Lord about the proper order of the matter.

1. What instructions had God given? Exodus 25:14, Numbers 1:47-54, 4:15, 7:9 (Kohath was a son of Levi Genesis 46:11).
2. See also 1 Chronicles 15:1-2.

B. That brings us the second thing that had changed. David had made preparation for the housing of the ark.

1. Look again at 1 Chronicles 15:1-2. Compare: 1 Chronicles 15:12 and 16:1-4.
2. This he learned to do by consulting the Lord about the proper order!
3. Not only did he make preparation, he instructed the Levites to do so as well.

III. There are three lessons I wish to draw from all of this.

A. The first and obvious one is that we, too, must consult the Lord about the proper order of things.

1. We should never presume upon the Lord's good will that just because we think a thing is good and right, it is so.
2. Sadly, too many are willing to do so.

B. The second is the joy of doing something for the Lord.

1. There is great joy and a sense of satisfaction in doing something for God. David sensed that and expressed it in the beautiful Psalms he composed after bringing the ark into Jerusalem

2. But we must be careful just here. Notice that there was rejoicing when they made the first attempt to bring the ark into the city, 2 Samuel 6:1-7. How should we assess this joy? Was it legitimate? Should there have been joy? What was the source of it?

3. Perhaps we should say there is real joy in doing something for God according to His will.

C. When was the last time doing something for the Lord in a pleasing way moved you to joy, to more than joy to exuberant joy?

1. I am very much aware that different folks express and even feel emotions on different levels and in different ways.

2. But what do we miss when we never allow ourselves to be filled with the joy of service to God?

1. Let us always seek to do what God has asked us to do the way God has asked us to do it!

2. What has God asked you to do for Him in your life?

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9-24-06