

Obedience Gives Freedom?
2 Sam 6:12-19

We are going to wrap up our series on the life of David today. Again, if you liked this series, you may be interested in the book where I got much of the information from: "David" by Charles Swindoll.

One of my favorite movies from my teen years was a movie called "The Karate Kid." It's about a boy who gets beat up in school and wants to learn karate to defend himself. He picks an eccentric teacher with a unique teaching style. On the first day of lessons Mr. Miagi tells Daniel to paint the fence using a specific stroke. It takes several days. He does the same thing with scrubbing a deck and then waxing several cars. After a couple of weeks, Daniel is ticked and demands to be taught karate. Mr. Miagi tells him to defend himself and attacks. Each attack was warded off with ones of the movements that had been ingrained in Daniel during these mundane tasks. He didn't know it, but his obedience in doing these things was teaching him what he wanted to learn.

Many times, God demands obedience from us and we simply don't understand why. However, if we follow God's rules it brings a freedom we weren't expecting. David learns this lesson with the Ark of the Covenant.

PRAYER

I. What and Why of the Ark

A. What is the Ark of the Covenant

1. During the time of Moses God instructed the Ark to be built to house his covenant with the Israelites.
2. It also became his physical dwelling place with the Israelites and was housed in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle.
3. The Israelites most holy artifacts were kept in this box.
4. At one point, the Israelites tried to use it to force God to win a battle for them.
5. Instead, God allowed a great slaughter and the capture of the Ark.
6. While the Philistines had it, terrible things happened to them and they finally sent it back to Israel where it stayed in the house of Abinadab.
7. 1 Chron. 13:3 tells us the Israelites didn't even ask about it during the reign of Saul.
8. They didn't even ask about the dwelling place of God during his whole kingship? That's a really sad statement about the spiritual state of Saul and Israel.

B. David Moves the Ark

1. The Ark stayed at the house of Abinadab for over 20 years until David decided to move it to Jerusalem.
2. He wanted to build a great building for it, but God had other plans.
3. He told David his job was to be a warrior king, but Solomon his son would know only peace and he would be the king to build a house for the Ark.
4. This wasn't a slight against David, God just had other plans for him.
5. Sometimes we think that when God doesn't answer our wishes with a yes it means he is angry with us.
6. Maybe we need to consider he simply has other plans for us and accept his answer.
7. Several years ago, Helene was teaching for the public schools here in Rochester for a year. Our income more than doubled during that time. We were diligent about giving back to God, helping those with financial

needs and being good steward of the blessings God gave us. We felt sure, God would make her contract permanent and we would continue to use our blessed income well. Guess what, she didn't get the permanent job. In fact, she found out about the loss of the job the same day my mom passed away. We were shocked, frustrated, confused, and to be honest mad.

8. Why did God do that? We were doing the right thing with the income we had. We weren't frivolous or extravagant. It just didn't make sense. In the years since then, while we don't have near the income we would have, we have seen how God's wisdom was better than our own. Things

happened that her job would have been a great strain on her emotionally. Other doors opened that probably served God's kingdom in a better way.

9. We finally realized that God wasn't punishing us, but using us differently than we expected. He saw what we couldn't or didn't see before.

10. It was the same thing with David.

11. His desire to build a wonderful temple to house God's Ark of the Covenant was a noble and good thing.

12. However, God had other plans for David.

C. David should have listened better

1. Whatever the reasoning, David wanted the Ark in Jerusalem.

2. David and the priests had either forgotten how God wanted the ark to be moved or felt it was too old fashioned of a way to do it.

3. In either case, they put it on a cart and began taking it to Jerusalem.

4. They disobeyed God.

5. The cart shifts and Uzzah reaches out to steady it. Uzzah is struck dead by God the instant he touches the Ark.

6. Was Uzzah a bad man? No, there is no indication that he was anything but honorable with honorable intentions.

7. But the fact remains, he disobeyed God.

8. David is angry and scared at the same times and leaves the Ark at a farmer's house for 3 months.

9. Have you ever wondered how Obed felt about that after hearing what happened to Uzzah?

10. The most holy, and powerful thing in the world is sitting on his porch after instantly killing a man for simply touching it.

11. This artifact had parted seas, destroyed armies, caused diseases in God's enemies.

12. Gulp!

13. Think of the president parking a huge nuclear bomb in your front yard. One that is sparking and acting very strangely!

D. Lesson Learned: Obedience pays off

1. Obed obeys God. He doesn't touch it.
2. When David sees that God is blessing Obed and not destroying the whole nation, he goes down and brings it back to Jerusalem the right way.
3. He obeys God.
4. The whole way home they celebrate before God.
5. This wasn't just general revelry but an outpouring of pure worship and celebration of God blessing them.
6. 2 Samuel 6:12–15 (ESV) — 12 And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So

David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

7. They knew they were right with God and obeying Him.

II. Some Lessons for Us

A. The better you understand where you stand with God, the freer you will be.

1. When you focus on being obedient to God, it opens many different ways to worship him.
2. You realize it's about Him not you.
3. You realize you just want to open your heart and life to him and that's a really cleansing, awe-inspiring feeling.
4. Let's be honest, worship styles are all about us.
5. Now let's get real, worship is all about God.
6. We need to keep focused on Who is the primary person in this scenario.
7. It's kind of like our response to salvation
 - a) Knowing we are saved should blow our minds.
 - b) It should make us want to celebrate with all our might.
 - c) If our favorite team wins a championship we make absolute fools of ourselves in celebration. It's such a great feeling.
 - d) Why wouldn't we celebrate God with the same enthusiasm? He has done a whole lot more for us than a sports team ever will.
 - e) Luke 15:10 (ESV) — 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
 - f) The essence of this passage is that the angels throw a party when one is saved.
 - g) Yet, I have visited churches that forbid members to even clap at a baptism because it isn't dignified.
8. Folks, salvation is a party event not a funeral!
9. Obedience to God is a cause of celebration!

10. When I know I am right with God, I can open my heart and praise him. I can thank him for what he has done for me.

11. That outpouring should be an honest reflection of who we are individually.

B. The freer you are the more confident you become

1. Think about it. We get so restrained by what others think about what we do and what we say that we forget about what God thinks.

2. Imagine knowing you are right with God. Does it really matter what another person or church thinks about you?

a) I remember being chastised once because I was enjoying worshipping in song too much and apparently was swaying more than the acceptable amount. I didn't want to offend those who complained to the elders, so I quit swaying.

b) As I look back on that time, I'm not sure I did the right thing.

c) I don't want to purposely interfere with someone else's worship, but yet that's what they did to me.

3. Let's look at our text for an answer to this question.

a) 2 Samuel 6:16 (ESV) — 16 As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.

b) 2 Samuel 6:20–22 (ESV) — 20 And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" 21 And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be

abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.”

4. David didn't care what Michal thought because he knew he was right with God.
5. So, our answer should be: “Absolutely not” because God's opinion is the only one that matters; and if we are right with him we can enjoy being free of the restraints put on us by others.
6. The biggest thing here is to be sure we are right with God, not just thinking, “well, it seems right to me to do this.”
7. That thinking has gotten a great number of people in the Bible and in history into a lot of trouble.
8. This isn't a stronger/weaker Christian issue Paul deals with in Romans 14 and 15.
9. We aren't talking about endangering someone's soul with our freedoms.
10. We are talking about worshipping God with all our heart and not letting someone else's opinion of our worship affect what we do.
11. So many of the worship passages talk about worshipping God with a thankful heart, but I have yet to find a passage that tells us to worship with a lifeless heart.
12. We keep worrying about what everyone but God thinks of our worship.
13. Just worship God with all your heart, sincerely.

C. Closing thoughts

1. When David disobeyed God, several bad things happened.
2. When he obeyed God, he knew he was doing right and because he had a heart that wanted to praise God, it allowed him to do so with all his

heart because he was focused on what God saw in him, not what other might have thought about him.

3. When you know where you stand, you experience real freedom.
4. We sing a song, "Tell me who's side are you standing on?" The response in that song is "I'm standing on the Lord's side."
5. Obedience to God will make us men and women after God's own heart.
6. We will be standing on the Lord's side.
7. Obey. Celebrate. Live for God.