

Doing Things God's Way 2 Samuel 6

Introduction:

1. Have you ever bought an object, and on the box were the dreaded words, "Assembly required"? Have you ever worked hard to assemble something only to realize that you did it all wrong? You then have to start over and do it the right way.
2. Unfortunately, I've done this in my spiritual life, too. I've done things "Dan's way," only to realize, "This isn't going to work. I need to do this God's way."
3. This is what happened to David, here in our text. David had just been made King of Israel, and decided to do a good thing. He was going to bring the ark of the covenant back to where it should be – Jerusalem.
 - The ark was basically a portable chest, but the most important sacred object of the Israelites. It was located in Moses' tabernacle in the Holy of Holies. This was the place where God's glory would hover, and where God spoke to Moses.
 - Of course, the ark would mean nothing to us today, even if we found it. It was a picture of Jesus Christ, but we don't need a picture. We have Christ Himself living within us! We have the real thing!
4. In our text, David attempted to do this noble task **David's** way and, of course, he messed everything up, and the whole project ended in failure. I'm so glad God allowed things like this to be recorded in the Bible. It lets me know there is hope for me!
5. Finally, David decided to do things God's way and, of course, it worked, and David succeeded in getting the ark to its rightful spot in Jerusalem.
6. Every day we wake up, we make a choice. Either we will live our lives **our** way, or God's way. But there are consequences to the choices we make. There is "an end" (Psalm 37:37-38). Every believer must determine to do things God's way. How? Let's learn from David here in 2 Samuel 6.

First, seek God's counsel rather than man's opinion.

1. Do you know where David made his first mistake? He sought everybody's opinion but God's. 1 Chronicles 13 gives us details about this same story. (Read vs. 1, 3, 4.)
2. David sought God when the Philistines surrounded him. 2 Samuel 5:19, 23
3. But in chapter 6, the Philistines had been defeated, and everything was going great. It is at these times when we are most likely to seek man's opinion rather than God's.
 - When things are going good, we tend to forget God and how much we need Him. But when we do this, things can fall apart very quickly. Deuteronomy 8:10-11

4. Each and every day we need to remember the words of Christ, "...without me ye can do nothing." But Paul gives us the positive side of that coin. He said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." **Philippians 4:13**
5. It is certainly not wrong to seek counsel from a godly person, but our first move should always be to Christ. We need to fill our minds with the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5
6. Do you know why we sometimes get bad advice from people and it leads us into making bad decisions? It is because the person is carnally-minded. They are not capable of giving you spiritual advice because they are not spiritually-minded. Notice this passage: Romans 8:5-9; cf. Proverbs 19:21
7. It is a serious thing to turn away God's counsel for man's opinion. Proverbs 1:25, 31

Second, follow God's Word rather than man's ideas.

1. God had given explicit instruction on how to bear the ark (Numbers 4:5-6, 15; 1 Chronicles 15:2, 15). Instead, David disregarded God's Word and put the ark on a cart to transport it. vs. 3-4
2. Where did he learn this from? He learned it from the ungodly Philistines (1 Samuel 6). David conformed to the world's methods rather than following the correct pattern in God's Word. What was the result? vs. 6-7 (death)
 - Remember the verse we read in Romans 8:6, "*For to be carnally minded is death...*"
 - Proverbs 14:12 states, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*"
3. This is what happens when we start doing things **our** way and think that we are smarter than God. There are many people who will miss heaven because they ignore God's Word and try to make it to heaven their own way. Matthew 7:13-14
4. There is only one way to gain eternal life (John 14:6). After we come to Christ and we are saved, there will still be a lingering temptation to live your Christian life by the world's ideas and philosophies. This is very dangerous. 1 John 2:15-17
5. David did things **his** way. Do you know what the results of his choice were? God's judgment (vs. 6-7), David got bitter and angry at God (vs. 8), David became paranoid and fearful (vs. 9), and David lost the blessing that could have been his. vs. 10-11
6. We have to decide each day, "Will I do things my way or God's way?" If you desire to do it God's way, follow God's Word rather than man's ideas. Man will lead you astray; God will never lead you astray. You can always trust God's Word.

In Conclusion:

1. Three months went by and David received news about the ark. David must have repented of his wrong actions because he decided to try it again. This time he did it God's way (vs. 12-13). The Levites prepared it and then carried it six paces to see if God would judge, then they made an offering unto the Lord.

2. Do you know what the result was when David did things God's way? Gladness and total joy! vs. 14-15
 - Side note: David was not performing some sensual 21st century dance in our text. The dance that the Bible speaks of was more of the idea of what children would do when there are ecstatic with joy (ring around the rosy).
3. When you do things God's way there is a joy, peace, and contentment that is beyond explanation. Paul called it "*joy unspeakable and full of glory.*" Oh, the joy that comes when we do things God's way!