

## The Path Through Difficult Times – Be Faithful

David's life was spent trying to live out his call and destiny. His goal was not to become the greatest king in history. His goal was to be faithful to his call. When you are attempting to be the greatest, it is easy to get focused on the wrong things. If you are attempting to be completely faithful to God, you will be great and do great things. There will also be chapters in your life that you would want to forget. Only God can take your mess and turn it into a message of encouragement.

[2 Samuel 5:19-25](#). Do not change when success appears. God wants you to be successful as a witness of His favor on your life. If you push God to the side, as a result of your success, some form of death will usually take His place. [2 Samuel 6:1-10](#). There is no mention of calling on the Lord until Uzzah died. God will allow you to continue with the usual church worship services even though you are completely outside of His will. What happens in a church service is not the best indication of God's approval. You can shout at church and yet not survive the threshing floor. At the threshing floor the whole stalks of wheat are gathered and the chaff is separated from the wheat. There was a lot of chaff in this production. God blew away the chaff.

Judging from the importance of the occasion and all the instruments mentioned, this was quite a production. The atmosphere was joyful, exciting, and engaging. The problem was that none of it pleased God because it was all in the disobedience to His word. We are often tempted to judge a worship experience by how it makes us feel. But when we realize that worship is about pleasing God, we are driven to His word so we can know how He wants to be worshipped. This is hard to grab hold of in our consumer-oriented culture, but it isn't all about what pleases us. It's all about what pleases God.

They honored God to the level that was comfortable and convenient for them. They should have, could have done what they were required to do, but they took the easy way out. Uzzah sinned through ignorant, hasty and impulsive action. He did what anyone would have done under the same conditions. He acted naturally. His flesh responded in the way of all flesh. He died because he did not have the time to reflect on his actions.

Where did they get the idea of putting the ark on a cart? [1 Samuel 6:1-11](#). They were following the practices of their enemies. God had fully revealed that, when the ark was moved it should be carried by the Levites on poles ([Ex. 25:12-15](#); [37:1-5](#); [Num. 7:9](#)); also that it should always be covered with a goatskin ([Num. 4](#)), and that even the Levites were not to touch it lest they die ([Num. 4:15](#)). The Philistines had moved it on a new cart pulled by cows. The Israelites thought the Philistines had a better way moving it than the Lord.

What was the error of Uzzah? It was more than just reflex action or instinct. God struck Uzzah because his action was based upon several critical errors in understanding and attitude. Uzzah erred in thinking it didn't matter who transported the ark. Uzzah erred in thinking that it didn't matter how the ark was transported. Uzzah erred in thinking he knew all about the ark because it was in his father's house for so long. He had gotten used to the things of God. Uzzah erred in thinking God couldn't take care of the ark of Himself. Uzzah erred in thinking that the ground of the threshing floor was less holy than his own hand.

Take a moment and think about your life. Examine your behavior and attitude. Is there some action or behavior in your life that is only there because you are not living close to God? Are you taking the time to reflect on your actions or do you do whatever comes to mind? What are you touching or allowing to touch your life? Do you respect God? Do you know the difference between holy and secular things?

Uzzah saw no difference between the ark and any other valuable article. His intention to help was right; but he was being insensitive to the direction God had given about handling His things.

God grants second chances. [2 Samuel 6:10-23](#). People who are not present at your revival may misjudge your praise.

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