



27: The Heart of Worship (2 Samuel 6)

A worship celebration with 30,000 people suddenly ended in death and fear. Today we discover what this shocking moment in 2 Samuel 6 teaches us about **the heart of worship**.

beourguest

Thanks so much for joining us today! Please register with our **CONNECT CARD**.

- Use our **WI-FI: *Worship Center Guest***

getourapp

Download our **CHURCH APP** for sermons & notes, ways to connect, upcoming events, online giving, & more.



APP & NOTES



CONNECT CARD



GIVE

teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

CATCH THE CONTEXT

WORSHIP: Celebrating the Presence, Purity, & Provision of God.

2 Samuel 6:1-2

David again assembled all the fit young men in Israel: thirty thousand. He and all his troops set out to **bring the ark of God** from Baale-judah. **The ark bears the Name**, the name of the LORD of Armies who is enthroned between the cherubim.

Thirty Thousand. That's a lot of troops being taken to retrieve the ark of God.

The ark that bears the Name - *Ha Shem* - substitute term that many Jewish people began to use instead of "Yahweh".

The ark is the object that God gave very specific instructions about building and using:

Exodus 25:10-22

They are to make an ark of acacia wood, forty-five inches long, twenty-seven inches wide, and twenty-seven inches high. Overlay it with pure gold; overlay it both inside and out. Also make a gold molding all around it. Cast four gold rings for it and place them on its four feet, two rings on one side and two rings on the other side. Make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. **Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark in order to carry the ark with them.** The poles are to remain in the rings of the ark; they must not be removed from it. Put the tablets of the testimony that I will give you into the ark. Make a mercy seat of pure gold, forty-five inches long and twenty-seven inches wide.

Make two cherubim of gold; make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end. At its two ends, make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat. The cherubim are to have wings spread out above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and are to face one another. The faces of the cherubim should be toward the mercy seat. Set the mercy seat on top of the ark and **put the tablets of the testimony that I will give you into the ark.** I will meet with you there above the mercy seat, between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the testimony; I will speak with you from there about all that I command you regarding the Israelites.

- The **ark** held the stone **tablets** of the covenant (Ex 25:16), a jar of manna (Ex 16:33-34), and Aaron's staff that had budded with almonds (Num 17:8-10), all images of God's Presence and provision.
- The **ark** was the item that was RARELY seen by others - only seen by the high priest on *Yom Kippur*. The ark had been seen by very few in this generation. What a privilege to see this as the focus of the parade back to Jerusalem!

They prepare to bring the ark from **Baale-judah** AKA as Kiriath Jerarim, about 9 miles west of Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 6:3-5

They set **the ark of God** on a new cart and transported it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill. **Uzzah** and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the cart and brought it with **the ark of God** from Abinadab's house on the hill. Ahio walked in front of the ark. **David and the whole house of Israel were dancing before the LORD** with all kinds of fir wood instruments, lyres, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.

The ark had been at **Abinadab's house** for decades - during the reign of Samuel as judge, Saul as king, and now during David's reign. **The sons of Abinadab** who had been responsible for the ark are guiding the ark...**on a new cart - that will become important in a moment.** **David and the whole house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all kinds of fir wood instruments, lyres, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.**

This is the Heart of Worship...at least to a degree. **The people celebrate the Presence of God**, BUT...that celebration is about to be cut short.

2 Samuel 6:6-10

When they came to Nacon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark of God and took hold of it because the oxen had stumbled. Then **the LORD's anger burned against Uzzah**, and **God struck him dead** on the spot for his **irreverence**, and he died there next to the ark of God.

David was angry because of the LORD's outburst against Uzzah, so he named that place Outburst Against Uzzah, as it is today. **David feared the LORD** that day and said, "**How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?**" So he was not willing to bring the ark of the LORD to the city of David; instead, he diverted it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath.

A time of **rejoicing** turns into a time of **FEAR!** **Uzzah** lies **DEAD next to the ark of God.**

What started as a celebration with over 30,000 people turned from shouting into silence, laughing into lamenting, and excitement into fear as people went home...SHAKEN.

Why in the world would Yahweh do that to Uzzah?

Here were God's commands regarding how to handle the ark:

1. The ark of God was NOT to be put on a cart, was to be transported by the priests using attached poles (Ex 25:14-15, Num 7:9)
2. No one could touch the ark itself or they would die (Num 4:15). *Uzzah faced the death sentence as he disobeyed what God had commanded.*

- 🕒 God had already spoken on the subject - people were never to TOUCH the ark. *We must follow God's WORD, not our instincts. Our good intentions do NOT replace our OBEDIENCE.*

The human tendency - the longer we're around someone or something, the more prone we are to take it for granted, to treat people or things with less care than we did at first. *If Uzzah hadn't had the ark around him all of his life, would he still have reached to touch it?*

✝ **Quit taking your God for granted** - His kindness, forgiveness, & Presence.

- 🕒 Quit taking your friends, family, & faith family for granted! Take time to *be THANKFUL for them!*

Remember how the people of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark and Yahweh killed 70 of their people (1 Sam 6:19-20)? They immediately wanted the ark taken away from them. The killing of Uzzah once again caused **David** and the people to **fear Yahweh** in a healthy way.

- 🕒 **At any time God wants to...He can take your life.** Some of us need to *reTHINK and repent* of treating God as a movie extra who shows up at the edge of your life rather than **the AUTHOR whom you honor throughout your life.**

2 Samuel 6:11-12a

The ark of the LORD remained in his house three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and his whole family. It was reported to King David, "The Lord has blessed Obed-edom's family and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God."

David recognized that the ark of God wasn't a *CURSE*, but a *BLESSING*. David realized that while he couldn't fully grasp God's purity & God's decisions, David was once again reminded of God's goodness and **blessings**. David decided to bring the ark back to Jerusalem once again. But this time they did it a little differently. Chronicles tells us of the significant changes made.

1 Chronicles 15:11-12

David summoned the priests Zadok and Abiathar and **the Levites** Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel, and Amminadab. He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levite families. You and your relatives must **consecrate yourselves** so that you may bring **the ark of the LORD God of Israel** to the place I have prepared for it.

For the LORD our God burst out in anger against us because you Levites were not with us the first time, for we didn't inquire of Him about the proper procedures." So the priests and the Levites consecrated themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. Then **the Levites carried the ark of God the way Moses had commanded according to the word of the LORD: on their shoulders with the poles.**

2 Samuel 6:12b-15

So **David went and had the ark of God brought up** from Obed-edom's house **to the city of David with rejoicing**. When those carrying the ark of the Lord advanced six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened calf. **David was dancing** with all his might **before the Lord** wearing a linen ephod. He and the whole house of Israel were **bringing up the ark of the Lord** with shouts and the sound of the trumpet.

Note that on the second attempt no cart is used, for we read that the ark is carried rather than riding on a cart

WORSHIP: Celebrating the Presence, Purity, & Provision of God.

But...not everyone had the heart of worship. Some were still much more concerned about what OTHERS thought instead of what Yahweh thought.

2 Samuel 6:16-20

As **the ark of the LORD was entering the city of David**, Saul's daughter Michal looked down from the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.

They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent David had pitched for it.

Then David offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in the LORD's presence.

When David had finished offering the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings, **he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Armies**. Then he distributed a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake to each one in the entire Israelite community, both men and women. Then all the people went home.

When **David returned home to bless his household**, Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him. "How the king of Israel honored himself today!" she said. "He exposed himself today in the sight of the slave girls of his subjects like a vulgar person would expose himself."

Evidently, Michal thought wearing this priestly ephod was A STEP DOWN for the king,

- David could have worn his royal robes that day. Instead **he wore the clothing of a servant of God**.

🔍 David understood something Michal did not: **Before God, even the king is just a worshiper**.

In this moment, the reader is reminded that **Michal** truly is "**Saul's daughter**" - like her father, was more concerned about the outward appearance than what was in the heart (1 Sam 16:7).

2 Samuel 6:21-23

David replied to Michal, "It was before the Lord who chose me over your father and his whole family to appoint me ruler over the Lord's people Israel. **I will dance before the Lord**, and **I will dishonor myself and humble myself even more**. However, by the slave girls you spoke about, I will be honored." And Saul's daughter Michal had no child to the day of her death.

✗ **Michal** cared about **dignity**.

✓ **David** cared about **devotion**.

If God is pleased with David, then David can be joyful despite what others - including his own wife - thinks.

David has experienced and continues to live out **the heart of worship**. The heart of worship is not about the music, the emotion, or the moment.

WORSHIP: Celebrating the Presence, Purity, & Provision of God.

The ark was a SYMBOL representing the real, *invisible* Presence of Yahweh.

✝ 1000 years later, SOMETHING GREATER than the ark arrived. SOMEONE GREATER than David has arrived. As David took off his Kingly clothes & put on priestly robes, the invisible God stepped off the throne, stepped out of heaven, put on skin!

Colossians 2:9-10

For **the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ**, and you have been filled by Him, Who is the Head over every ruler and authority.

Though we have yet to SEE Jesus, that day IS coming. Until then, we know that Jesus is God in skin and that those who TURN from sin and TRUST Him, have been **filled by Him** - knowing His Presence by His Holy Spirit who lives in us.

Now we have the PRIVILEGE to go **LIVE OUT THE HEART OF WORSHIP**, to live lives that are...**Celebrating the Presence of God, the Purity of God, & the Provision of God**.



▶ **Purposely pause and celebrate the Presence of Jesus, thanking Him for being with you.**

▶ **Celebrate the purity Jesus has given you by livin' forgiven!**

▶ **Thank God for how He continues to provide for all your needs. Ask God to provide for your needs & others!**

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussion questions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. Read 2 Samuel 6:1–5

David and the people of Israel celebrated as the ark was being brought toward Jerusalem.

- What do these verses reveal about the **excitement and enthusiasm** of the people?
- Why is it possible for people to be very passionate in worship but still miss something important?

2. Read 2 Samuel 6:6–7

Uzzah touched the ark and was struck dead.

- Why do you think this moment shocked David and the people so deeply?
- According to **Exodus 25:14–15 and Numbers 4:15**, what instructions had God already given about handling the ark?
- What does this event teach us about the holiness of God and the importance of obedience?

3. Read 2 Samuel 6:8–10

David responded with anger and fear.

- Why do you think David reacted this way?
- Have you ever struggled to understand something God allowed or commanded?
- How should believers respond when they **don't fully understand God's actions**?

4. Read 2 Samuel 6:11–15

After seeing God bless the house of Obed-edom, David brings the ark to Jerusalem again—this time following God's instructions.

- What changed between the **first attempt** and the **second attempt** to move the ark?
- Why is it important that worship includes **both joy and reverence**?
- What does David's dancing before the Lord reveal about his heart toward God?

5. Read 2 Samuel 6:16–23

Michal despised David's worship.

- Why do you think Michal looked down on David's worship?
- How can concern about **what other people think** affect our worship and obedience to God?
- When have you had to choose between **honoring God or pleasing people**?

6. Read Colossians 2:9–10

Jesus is the fullness of God in bodily form.

- How does Jesus reveal the **true presence of God** in a greater way than the ark did?
- What does it mean that believers have been **filled in Him**?

Personal Application

7. Celebrating God's Presence

Psalm 16:11 reminds us that joy is found in God's presence.

- What are some ways you can intentionally pause this week to acknowledge God's presence in your daily life?

8. Living in God's Purity

1 Peter 1:15–16 calls believers to be holy.

- Are there areas of your life where God may be calling you to **repent, change, or pursue greater holiness**?

9. Remembering God's Provision

James 1:17 says every good gift comes from God.

- What are some ways God has recently **provided for you or your family**?
- How can gratitude become a regular part of your worship?

10. The Heart of Worship

Reflect on the definition shared in the sermon:

Worship: Celebrating the Presence, Purity, and Provision of God.

- If someone observed your life this week—your priorities, your time, your reactions—what would they conclude you worship most?
- Which of these three areas do you most need to grow in right now?
- What is **one practical step** you can take this week to live a lifestyle of worship?