

## Victorious David

*In 2 Samuel 5, after becoming king David goes to war. He conquers Jerusalem from the Jebusites by sending his army to climb up through the water shaft that would be used to supply Jerusalem with water during a siege. He then defeats the Philistines twice in battle, and in verse 21 he carries away the idols that they worshiped. He continues his military campaign to go and rescue the Ark of the Covenant.*

## What David Forgot

### A military expedition

*Compare to 1 Chronicles 12:1-4, consulting “commanders of thousands and hundreds.”*

Professor Robert Bergen: “David was especially aware that his decision to dispose of the Philistine gods would invite reprisals, perhaps even a second Philistine attempt to take possession of the ark of the covenant [like what happened before in 1 Samuel 4:11, 5:1]... an attack against Israel to acquire and destroy the ark would have been particularly attractive due to the fact that the ark was located only a few miles from [Philistine] territory.”

### The anger of God

*Why was God angry? And why does he express his anger towards Uzzah’s act in particular?*

### Anger, fear, and sending God away

*David’s thinking, “I tried my best and it wasn’t enough... how can the ark of the Lord come to me?”*

David has forgot the fundamental principle of why he is king and how he relates to God.

## The Story of Obed-edom

### A Gittite transforms into a family of priests

*1 Chronicles 26:4-5 “And Obed-edom had sons... for God blessed him.”*

### The importance of gatekeepers

*The first gatekeeper for the tabernacle/temple worship was Phinehas (1 Chronicles 9:20, Num. 25)*

*Peter Leithart: “Against the background of this history of unfaithfulness and sacrilege, the gatekeepers are essential to the maintenance of the new Israel. They guard God’s house and His things so that wrath doesn’t break out against them... nothing was more important to the success of Israel’s new beginning than the gatekeepers. If they were faithful, they would ensure that the temple would not again be abandoned and destroyed.”*

What mechanism allowed Obed Edom, of Gath, to assume one of the most important and sacred temple duties?

### What David Remembered

A changed man

*Why was he rejoicing?*

Remembering grace

*Vs. 12 – “When it was told King David ‘the Lord has blessed the household of Obed Edom...”*

*Vs. 21 – “[I danced] before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me a prince over Israel, the people of the Lord – and I will celebrate before the Lord.”*

Responding to grace

*People who understand grace worship God with their whole being (vss. 12-15)*

*People who understand grace act graciously and generously to others (vss. 18-20)*

*People who understand grace keep God’s rules (1 Chronicles 15:13)*

*“[David said] Because you [Levites] did not carry it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not seek him according to the rule.”*

We have received even greater grace through Jesus

### Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What is David’s most fundamental error in how he approaches God in this passage? How does this lead to the death of Uzzah?
2. What do you think of Obed-edom’s story? What does it show you about grace?
3. What examples from David’s response do you most need to incorporate into your life? Worship, humility, generosity, or obedience?
4. Are you tempted to forget that your relationship with God is based on grace? How?