

# CAUTION — HANDLE WITH CARE

**Text:** *2 Samuel 6:1–13*

(With foundation in *1 Samuel 7:1–2* and revelation from *1 Chronicles 15*)

## **\*Set the Atmosphere \***

Tonight, I want to start by making an announcement that I'm sure most of us are already aware of so I don't want to sound facetious, but God has a way of doing things. I am fully aware that sometimes we want God to come into alignment or agreement with our good intentions for Him. See, our good intentions for God and reframing His obedience from His word, does not attract favor. Favor will rest on your life when you find reverence for His word. One of the greatest tensions in the life of a believers walk is this: will we actually give God what He asked for, or will we keep offering Him what costs us the least and calling it obedience?

Let me speak boldly and help someone out tonight, and then we can move on to the message. **God isn't only looking for what you're willing to lay down at His feet. He's looking to see if you'll give Him what He asked for. GOD HAS STANDARDS.** It's important to understand that a renewed mind is essential to an obedient heart. Because if we try to obey spiritual principles, through fleshly imitation, we will fail every time. Only through a renewed mind is when we can truly see what He says and apply what He tells us to do, **with joy**, even when it feels like we're in prison. Like Pastor Tim preached last week, you can't have joyful obedience in the prison if you're not deeply rooted there. So, I came carrying a warning in the Spirit and this warning will be the title of my message. 4 simple words:

## **“CAUTION — HANDLE WITH CARE.”**

Because what we’re focusing on tonight is not ordinary, normal or common, it's very heavy...this is **the presence of God**.

And if we’re not careful...we’ll try to carry something holy with unholy hands.

And if we mishandle it, it will correct us...but if we honor it, it will carry us, keep us, and bless us.

**-PRAY-**

Before we get into *2 Samuel 6*, let's rewind and set some foundation.

### **I. (1 Samuel 7:1-2) Read**

For years the Ark of God had been mishandled by the children of Israel it had been taken by the philistines, but it eventually ends up in the house of Abinadab.

And your Bible says they **consecrated Eleazar** to keep the Ark of God.

Now don't miss this—**Eleazar's name in Hebrew is made up of two parts: “El” = God and “azar” = to help, support, assist. So his name literally means “God has helped” or “God is my helper.”**

- That means before he ever received the Ark...his identity already declared: "I can't handle this... unless God helps me."

Eleazar wasn't just guarding the Ark—**his name revealed HOW he could guard it**. You see, this wasn't a normal assignment he was tasked with and consecrated for, it was the ***presence of God!*** See, what others mishandled...Eleazar carried with **reverence**.

**Listen, the only people who can carry what is holy...are the ones who know they need help.**

*We don't stay pure on our own.*

*We don't stay focused on our own.*

*We don't stay consistent on our own.*

Our life works best when our identity matches Eleazar and says: "God... I need Your help to carry what You've placed on my life."

*Now watch this—Eleazar shows us how it's supposed to be done...*

***But the danger is not in starting right—it's in drifting over time.***

*Because what one generation reveres...another generation can grow familiar with and what you grow familiar with, if not careful you can lose reverence for.*

## **II. (2 Samuel 6:1-5)**

Now fast forward 20 years. David gathers **30,000 men** to bring the Ark back and here is where we meet two men: **Uzzah and Ahio (A-he-o)**.

Same house (Abinidab).

Same Ark.

Same exposure.

***But not the same posture. Eleazar/Uzzah (same presence,different reverence)*** Pretty identical with the church today.

- Eleazar was consecrated...Uzzah was comfortable.
- Eleazar depended on God...Uzzah became familiar with God.

**And familiarity...will make you treat holy things as common.**

Just because you're around it...doesn't mean you honor it. Let me say it more like this. **Just because we feel it, doesn't mean we fear it.**

But here is where they went wrong in verse 3...

God already gave instructions back in *Exodus 25* and *Numbers 4*:

- Don't touch the Ark
- Carry it with poles
- Let the Levites bear it on their shoulders

But David put it on a **new cart that was constructed from a copied method by the enemy of God, instead of following the command of God.**

**The philistines weren't judged for using the cart...because they didn't know any better, but Israel did.**

Can I say it like this?

**God already said how to handle His presence—we who know better, don't get to improvise.**

- We don't get to rewrite holiness.
- We don't get to remix obedience.
- We don't get to put our hands on what God said **DON'T TOUCH. (We've gotta do it GODS WAY)**

And here's where it gets even deeper...This wasn't just about attitude, this was about **ignoring instruction.**

And whenever you ignore what God said you set yourself up for unnecessary consequences.

**\*Encouragement\***

*Now here's where the story begins to shift a bit, because when God's instructions are ignored long enough, eventually there is a moment of confrontation.*

*And in the next two verses that moment shows up suddenly.*

### **III. (2 Samuel 6:6-7)**

The oxen stumble, the Ark shakes, and Uzzah reaches out to steady it. And immediately, he falls dead.

#### ***watch this:***

Uzzah didn't die because of rebellion.

He died because of **irreverent familiarity.**

- He was close to glory, but lost respect for it.
- He had access, but no alignment.
- He had good intentions, but no reverence.

**Church, I encourage us to be very careful, because we can get so used to God...that we stop honoring Him.**

*Now here's the atmosphere change...*

*The music stops.*

*The celebration ends.*

*The movement halts.*

*It's clear that when something is mishandled spiritually...God will pause things naturally.*

### **IV. (2 Samuel 6:8-10)**

Here we see that David gets afraid. The celebration stops and the Ark is sent to the house of Obed-Edom.

Why?!? Because when God is not handled with care correctly, He will **interrupt the movement.**

## **PREACH**

*But here's what I love about God...Even in the middle of correction  
He leaves evidence of what happens when it's done right.*

*Because while one man just died...another man's house is about to  
come alive.*

### **V. (2 Samuel 6:11-12)**

Obed-Edom was a Levite. Not the most known or famous but he honored God's presence.

For 3 months...the Ark stays in his house. And everything connected to him gets blessed.

Why? Because he handled the presence **with care**.

***You see, God's presence doesn't change—our posture toward it does.***

And that posture determines:

- Correction OR Blessing (Brief testimony about the revelation & rebuke)

When you honor God's presence, it brings life, order, and blessing.

Now don't miss this...

Same presence.

Same proximity.

Different outcome.

Which means this isn't about the Ark anymore, **this is about us**.

Because we all have access to His presence...The question is, how are we handling it?

## VI. (1 Chronicles 15)

We see in this chapter that David doesn't stay confused. He goes back to the Word.

***And this is where revival really begins...when we stop blaming God and start correcting ourselves.***

Here are 4 CORRECTIONS David made:

**1. He acknowledged the mistake** (In verse 13) , David says:  
"We didn't do it God's way."

Revival starts with honesty.

**2. He put the right people in place (in verse 2)**

"No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites..."

Not just available or willing people...**appointed people.**

**3. He required consecration again**

In verse 12:

"Sanctify yourselves... that you may bring up the ark of the Lord..."

- Before movement...there must be purification.

**4. He followed God's original design**

In verse 15:

"The children of the Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders, by its poles..."

- No more carts.
- No more shortcuts.
- No more bright ideas of man.
- Back to the shoulders.

Gods original instructions how to handle the Ark...**HIS WAY.**

***\*Encourage\****

*And when you get things back in order...you don't just see correction, you start to see **restoration**.*

*Because the same God who stopped it...is the same God who will start it again....properly.*

## **VII. (2 Samuel 6:13)**

Now watch this...The second time—they carry the Ark the right way.

And after **six steps**...David stops and sacrifices.

Why? **Because when you've seen what happens without reverence...you don't delay obedience.**

The number 6 represents **man**.

So before step 7 (which represents completion, perfection)...David says: "Before we go any further in our strength, we need sacrifice."

## ***PREACH***

### **Altar call/Prayer**

So now we've come full circle...

From mishandling...

to correction...

to proper alignment.

Which means this is no longer just a message that I'm bringing you, this is a moment of decision.

***So as I close tonight, I want to ask you...have you been a casual christian or a consecrated one?***

Because in this next season, we cannot carry His presence casually—we must carry it carefully.

So If you're saying tonight...

God, I want to handle Your presence the right way...I want you to step out of your seat and meet me at this altar.

If you know you have been handling His presence with care, but you know you can't without His help, come down.

Close/Altar call