

I Chronicles 13-15 –18 September 2025

“Unrefined: The Need For Faith & Practice”

Introduction

*I Chronicles 1-9 opened with the genealogies of the Jews that're reconstituting in Israel after the Captivity

*In Chap 10-12 Ezra begins to recount Israel's history

- *The fall of the unfaithful first king Saul

- *The rise of faithful David & his mighty men

*Now in Chap 13-15, in the formative years of David's kingship we see David's good faith being challenged to line up with good practice

- *Success and blessing come from not just a godly will but accomplishing it in a godly way

Today, we'll see 4 examples of needing good faith AND good practice

#1 – The Ark & Uzza: Good desire, Bad Practice (Chap 13) [Our Work Life]

Read Vs 1-4

1. Ark was to represent their worship & service to Yahweh as the central focus of the nation
 - a. Ark crossed Jordan 1st, then Israel followed
 - b. Ark encircled Jericho 7 days before victory
 - c. Priests served God before the ark always
2. Desire to seek God preeminently has returned
 - a. David's heart shows he's intentional about returning the Lord to the center of Israel's life
3. David's ready for action but he's unrefined
 - a. Notice vs 1 says he took counsel of the people, but he didn't inquire of the Lord
 - b. *The seeds of our future trouble are often sown in times of great prosperity & joy*

Read Vs 5-8

1. When David became king, the Ark was at Kiriath-jearim
 - a. Joshua brought the ark to the land resting at Gilgal until later in his life, it was moved to Shiloh

- b. In Samuel's days, Israel used it as a 'good luck charm' during battle & Philistines took it
 - c. Upon God miraculously giving it back to Israel, they brought it to Kiriath-jearim
 - d. Now David wants to bring it to Jerusalem
2. Notice David intends to move the ark, w/ a cart
- a. Exo 25 shows proper way to move this holy item w/ poles thru ringlets, Kohathites carry it
 - b. Again great desire, but unrefined not asking God for His prescribed method
3. God is glorified not just with our "ends" but also with our "means"
- a. Not just accomplishing godly things, but doing them a godly way

Read Vs 9-10

- 1. The ark was to be treated as holy, not common
- 2. Uzza was a son of Abinadab where the ark has been located for some 20 years
 - a. Uzza was culpable for mishandling the ark
 - b. David was culpable for mishandling the ark

3. This isn't a sin of reaction (no time to decide)
 - a. They had time to plan & prepare this move but never inquired of the Lord how to do it
4. We often say, "Well I had no choice but to sin in the moment"
 - a. That's b/c the real choice occurred earlier
 - b. "I have no choice but to abort the baby" lie
 - c. "I have no choice but to go into debt" lie

Read Vs 11-14

1. David had to change his good desire b/c of his bad plans
2. David went 3 months angry & confused b/c he never asked God how to properly transport the ark
 - a. Angry & confused w/ his eyes on Uzza's death instead of on his lack of bringing his plan to the Lord first – where are you looking?
3. The Lord is to be treated not just w/ love but w/ holiness

#2 – Family Matters: Good desire, Bad Practice (Chap 14:1-7) [Our Family Affairs]

Read Vs 1-2

1. When God brings blessings let it remind us that we're to use it for His purposes & to bless others

Read Vs 3-7

1. World sees this multiplying of David's family as good thing, but it would be his greatest anguish
 - a. David desired to grow Israel (good), but handled it in an unrefined way (bad practice)
 - b. *The seeds of our future trouble are often sown in times of great prosperity & joy*
 - c. Having many wives is against God's plan – In the beginning God created male & female
 - d. The Law forbid this (Read Deut 17:17)
2. Before we start thinking David did something incredibly bizarre and strange, remember this
 - a. Avg American male has 8-20 sexual partners in life but w/o lifetime commitment
 - b. David at least gave lifetime protection & finance to them all

- c. This isn't defending David, but stating how our culture in many ways is far worse

#3 – Foreign Affairs: Good desire, Good Practice (Chap 14:8-17) [Philistines] [Worldly Affairs]

Read Vs 8-10

1. Oh praise God David is learning the hard lessons God is trying to teach him
2. How much better if David (& us) would learn from other's experience, not from our own failures
 - a. David should know to treat the ark as holy by how Levites handled the ark after it was stolen
 - b. David should know to inquire of God 1st from Joshua's failure at Battle of Little Ai

Read Vs 11-12

1. When God tells you to do it, you can't go wrong
2. God broke thru in life in chap 13 & 14, but very differently
 - a. Chap 13 broke thru on Uzza for defiance
 - b. Chap 14 broke thru on Philistines for same
 - c. Not good or bad guys, but are we on His side

Read Vs 13-17

1. Our methods may be sound tactically, financially, logically, scientifically, but can easily fail unless we're on the Lord side of the argument
2. Desire for God, w/o dependence on God is doom
 - a. This is the refining process

#4 – The Ark Comes Home: Good desire, Good Practice (Chap 15) [Right Heart / Right Actions]

Read Vs 1-15

1. Godly ones learn from past mistakes & change
2. David's becoming refined – His desire to serve God is now merging w/ attention to God's Word
 - a. He knows now only Levites carry the ark
 - b. He knows now that Levites need cleansed before they can serve (Exo 19, Lev 16, 21)
 - c. He knows now God is holy not common

Read Vs 16-24

1. This is a strong indication that the work of the Levites to serve, sacrifice and worship God was being greatly neglected in King Saul's days

2. So David appointed singers & musicians in time for the big moving day of the ark
3. David knew much of music & leadership yet appointed others to this work of leading
 - a. Don't micromanage or dictate things

Read Vs 25-28

1. Joy isn't from general sense of having the ark, but from specific sense of overcoming past failure
2. To have the assurance that your life is pleasing the Lord is wonderful

Read Vs 29

1. II Sam 6:20-23 gives the exchange Michal has when David gets home
2. There's nothing wrong w/ making a big production & being emotionally joyful in worship
3. Emotion is good, but don't commit its 2 errors
 - a. Don't let them lead or govern
 - b. Don't be detached from them
4. Carnal, earthly people have no ability to appreciate the joy that God's goodness brings

Conclusion

So we gain the right desires when we're born again, but to have the right practice is a matter of allowing the Holy Spirit to sanctify us thru His Word

1. **The Ark & Uzza remind us to be concerned about God's way to handle our work life**
2. **David's family remind us to be concerned about God's way to handle our family affairs**
3. **The Philistines remind us to be concerned about God's way to handle worldly affairs**
4. **The Ark coming home reminds us that victory can be had w/ the right heart AND actions**