

- I. Intro: glad to be here/ PJohn
- II. Title: **Lost and found**
 - A. **How many people know, there are somethings you can lose and they aren't a big deal: a nickel, a sock....**
 - B. But there are other things that are a big deal to lose: keys, a shoe, a good friend..
 - C. **Story. (wipes)**
 - D. The story that we are looking at today: is about losing something Priceless... and to what lengths we would go to get it back, and once we get it back what we would do to keep it,
 - E. Throughout this message: I want to stop and make several points that pertain to us in the Season of Life that we are in
- III. All of us are in different seasons: We have kids and teens that are in the crowd today that are in one seasons, we have singles here in a season, married with kids/ kid's grown, We have Grandparents in the room
 - A. We have mature believers and new Beleivers, and un-believers
 - B. But for all of us; God has something specific and special He wants to speak to us today through His word
 - C. Lets lean in: and listen to what God is saying
 - D. **Prayer**
- IV. Turn in your Bibles to **2 Samuel 6: 16**: 16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. 17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings [a] before the LORD. **20**: 20 When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!" 21 David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.
- V. Ok, let's stop here for a second
 - A. David has just entered Jerusalem, and for some reason he is really excited: he is jumping up and down, dancing, rejoicing, he is so excited in fact that while he is jumping around, worshipping his skirt thing comes up and he is probably showing a lot of leg.....
 - B. And whats interesting is that Michal: his wife comes out and is ridiculing David for Jumping around, being excited, and worshipping God
 - C. As we look at this Message; We will answer the questions: why is David so

Excited? Why is His wife not excited

D.

E.

- VI. Ok, So the reason David is going wild worshipping God: is not because his team just won the championship, or because He just received a job promotion..... something bigger than That!!!
- A. No, the reason Why David is so excited is because he is bringing the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem
 - B. This is a huge deal: and for a few min. I want us to look at why this Ark was so important,
 - C. **Forget everything you learned from Indiana Jones (Gabe)**
- VII. So the scripture that I just read is a very important event that just happened in the history of Israel: David brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem.
- A. So, What is the Ark of the Covenant? : **(Picture)**
 - B. After Moses has delivered the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, God calls upon him to go to the top of Mount Sinai where he will be instructed about the ways in which the Israelites are to worship and live
 - C. It is here that God gives Moses the instructions to build the Ark, which will serve as a guide and protector for the Israelites in their journey to the promised land.,
 - D. In Exodus 37 the Ark is described as being a chest made of acacia wood; two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high (44 x 26 x 26 in.). The inside and outside were overlaid with pure gold, Two gold rings were attached to each side of the Ark, Poles made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold were put through the rings to carry it, A mercy seat made of pure gold was placed on top of the Ark,
 - E. The mercy seat had two gold cherubim, one on each end, facing each other., The cherubim's wings were outstretched over the mercy seat,
 - F. After God gives the instructions for construction of the Ark, he tells Moses to put in this Ark the: covenant (the ten commandments) inside it , Arons rod is also in there along with a golden bowl of Manna.
- VIII. The Ark of the Covenant, thus fittingly enshrined, was the only piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place. It was visited but once each year by the High Priest, on the Day of Atonement, to make "atonement for the sins of the people." This was the most solemn ceremony of the Hebrew worship.
- A. In **exodus 25:22** There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will deliver to you all my commands for the Israelites
 - B. Chk it out: The Ark of the covenant was where the manifest presence of God

dwelled, The Glory of God was in the ark. ,,,,

C. Don't picture in your mind a Genie.....ok

- IX. When the children of Israel were traveling to the promised land they were lead by the ark
- A. When they were in battle the ark would go before them (priest would carry it), and if they were obeying God, then they would win every victory.
 - B. The Ark was extremely Holy, you couldn't touch it and you couldn't look inside of it or you died.
 - C. Infact someone did die because they touched it.....
 - D. **To the Israelites there was nothing more important than this ark. It was literally God's presence**
- X. **Lets stop here: the 1st Point :s Is God important to us?**
- A. Is God important?
 - B. Obviously, He should be
 - C. What does God being important to us look like???
 - D. Spending time with God: Praying/ Reading
 - E. Consulting God on decisions in our life.....
 - F. Following the Teachings of the Bible?
 - G. Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your life
 - H. Allowing The fruit of the Spirit to be evident in our life
 - I. Making family decisions and schedules based off God
- XI. I want to encourage everyone in Here to make God a priority right now
- A. Allow him to shape what your life looks like
 - B. A lot of you have small children and active Children... Pray about your schedules
 - C. For us: The Spring is super busy..... Baseball/gymnastics
 - D. Make God important in your life
 - E. Keep going
- XII. Ok, that is some background of the importance and significance of this Ark: But the question that we should be asking ourself is: **Why was David bringing it back?**
- A. Was it staying at a friends house? Was someone borrowing it?
 - B. The Answer is: the reason that David is bringing the Ark back is because they Ark had been lost
 - C. If you go back to **1 Samuel 4** , this is right before Saul becomes King of Israel, The Israelites are about to fight the Philistines
 - D. But they do not consult the Lord about it, they didn't bring the ark, and they go fight and lose

- XIII. So Then they decide, “what we forgot was to bring the ark”, so they go back and fight the Philistines, with the Ark, they lose again
- A. See, at this point in time in Israel they had been rebelling against God, they were worshipping false idols again, and they were treating this ark more like a lucky rabbits foot then the presence of All Might God!
 - B.
- XIV. **Lets stop here for a second and make another point: Wanting Gods blessings and following God aren't the same**
- A. **Does this Sound familiar,** : going to church, wearing crosses, have Cross have 100 bibles, but not following God with our Whole Heart??
 - C. **A lot of times just like these Ancient Israelites:** we just want the benefits of God..... We don't want his presence, we don't want to be obedient to everything God says, We don't want to really have to sacrifice that much..... we want his hand of blessings though!!!..
 - D. A lot of times as Christians we want God to bless us, to open doors for us, to make bad situations Good, and its like maybe we just want God to tag along
- XV. **Biggest problem I see in myself and a lot of Believers: We want God to bless us, but do we Want God?**
- A. Do we want to know him, get closer to him, love him, worship him, serve him??
 - B. Or do we just want him to bless us.....
 - C. That is not who God is; and if your serving a God that requires no worship, or service, or sacrifice.... You have made your own God and are worshipping him
- XVI. This is Israel's problem: They wanted to win a battle, but they didn't think they needed God's help..... but then after they lose they are like: we need to bring that big box thing with us:
- A. Like I said it was just basically a **LUCKY Charm** for them
 - B. **It was a superstition: high school Baseball Story.... Socks**
 - C. But is that how some people treat Christ and Christianity? A supersticion??
 - D. That's not what I want us to do!
 - E. God is real, and He loves us, and the most fulfilled we will ever be in serving Him!
 - F. Keep Going.....
- XVII. So here is what happens: After they lose a second time to the Philistines, The Ark gets captured
- A. See God isn't a good luck symbol, He isn't a Gennie in a Bottle baby
 - B. He didn't come to give us wishes: God is Holy, and to be honored and respected
 - C. So the Philistines realized how much the Ark has helped Israel in the past, so they

are like: We want some of that

- D. So Here is what they do: They take the Ark and they put it in their temple of Dagon; .., (Dagon was a false Pagan God....) fertility God**
- E. To them; the Ark is like a Trophy or a good luck Charm too...**

XVIII. And if you read in the Bible what happens next, its truly Amazing

- A. They leave the Ark in the temple of Dagon, and the next morning the Dagon idol is on the ground.. bowing down to God
- B. They put Dagon back up, and the shrine falls again, and then the Philistine people in Ashdod got an outbreak of tumors,, then a plague of rats hit the city.....
- C. Awesome!!

XIX. Another Point: Nothing stands up to God: I know there are people here today that are in a tough place

- A. God Cares..... Loves you
- B. He wants to heal you, bring you peace, take that depression away
- C. You know I was on Dialysis a few years;;;;; Wasn;t fun... But it wasn;t over!!**
- D. Let him fight for you!!!
- E. Some of you have been convinced that your sin, your depression will never end..... your pain will never end
- A. I am here to tell you the same God that parted the Red Sea, The same God that healed the lepers, the Same God that Restored the Woman at the well, the same God that brought me peace and a Kidney
- B. Can and will do the same thing for you!!!!
- C. Spend time with him, bring your brokenness to him, pray again, let God give you some Faith

F. Back to story; what happens to the Ark So What happens? The Philistines give it back to the Israelites...

- A. And what does Israel do with it.....
- B. So the Israelites get the Ark back, and they stored the Ark in a Levite Priests House, Abinadab's house for 20yrs.
- C. Its in a priests house for 20 years, not in Jerusalem,
- D. The Ark was stored about 8 miles west of Jerusalem for 20 years
- G. And if you read what happens once it is in the hands of the Israelites its interesting:

- A. Things are great for awhile: the people are happy they have the Ark back from the Philistines, the people turn from their idols, they worship God
- B. Its awesome
- C. But the longer it stays in Abinadabs house..... The more Israel forgets about it**
- D. And ultimately they turn back to idols**

H. Another Point: you can be so close to God in proximity and still miss him

- A. Think about Judas
- B. Think about the Pharissess and Saducees
- C. Think about the Bible on the Night Stand
- D. Lets not be around Jesus, but miss Him!!!

XX. Ok, So During this 20 years: things weren't so great for the Israelites: They were in constant wars (with the Philistines, Amelkites, Hittites, they were in Civil war..... it wasn't the best time for Israel

- A. See what's wild is that; in reality they had the Ark back, but King Saul and the rest of Israel were just happy with it being back in their borders**
- B. They weren't following God, they weren't offering the atonement practices they were supposed to... ????????**
- C. They weren't worshipping him like they should, they didn't have a tabernacle, they hadn't built any temple for the Presence of God, its in Abindab's House
- D. its not in Jerusalem, its not around the people, It is basically forgotten
- E. Infact, look what David says: **1 chronicles 13:3** (for we did not inquire of [a] it [b] during the reign of Saul.")

XXI. See, **They were fine with just saying, "Yea we got the Ark back"**

- A. Many had gone back to worshipping false God's, their hearts weren't on God, their actions weren't for God, they weren't reverencing God, they weren't following the commandments.....
- B. All King Saul cared about was looking good, he didn't care about the presence of God: It was a trophy on a shelf!
- C. Saul had the Ark back, but they didn't have God's presence

XXII. Their nation is going to trash, but they just keep doing the same ole

- A. See at this time there were comfortable with the Symbol of God, rather than the real things, God wasn't leading Israel.
- B. If that isn't a representation of modern Christianity and America , than I don't know what is: Yea, I got Jesus, Yea, I believe in Jesus, Yea, I go to church, Yea I got a Bible, Yea, I go to such and such Church.....
- C. But do we follow him, do we live for him, does we have any say in your life.....
- D. Because the Israelites could have had him, but instead they just went through the

motions

XXIII. Come on: They are God's people: he set them apart, They had become a great nation, had been set free from the Egyptians, they had come through the desert, they were living in that land flowing with milk and honey that God gave them

E. And they knew it was God.....

F. The crazy victories they had won were because of God, remember Jerico...

G. Some how they forgot

XXIV. Think about our Nation..... We have been Blessed by God:

A. Think about our freedom of religion....

B. Think about our Natural Resources

C. Think about the size of our nation

D. Think about our standard of living

E. God has blessed this Nation... we have sent out more missionaries/ more Aid.....

F. Where are you going to go with more Freedom???

XXV. Yet, in the midst of God's blessing us

A. What has our nation been doing for 50 years?? Exactly what Israel was doing

B. Turning from God.....

C. Our nation watches more porn, does more drugs, has more crime, more depression. And suicide, killed more babies, than any place in the World basically

D. WE worship ourselves..... we worship money, and convenience as a Nation

E. Come on WE have to Come Back to God; we need His presence; Just like Israel did

F. And Because Israel had a hard heart; God let a lot of things happen to them, because of their disobedience, because they didn't want him for real..... I think that is happening Here

XXVI. So, Israel is in a terrible position: war, civil war, famine: But Guess who shows up on the scene? **DAVID (7 yrs)**

A. King David shows up on the scene, and he realizes something:

B. We have lost the presence of God in Israel, (we have been warring, and we are in the midst of civil war, and the Ark is Where?

C. David says " we have to bring it back to Jerusalem" !!

XXVII. And David doesn't just talk about it: he gathers 30,000 men and begins to transport it back to Jerusalem. (Because we need the presence of God in our nation, not just the symbol of God)

A. And we need the presence of God and not just AIR 1, we need his presence not

just going to church, we need Him..... Not just the symbol, WE need him, not just a prayer I prayed when I was 8

- B. Everyday we need him, every min, not just when things are bad, not just for an hour on Sunday morning.....We need him!!

XXVIII. So David gets back to Jerusalem , with the Ark, The Ark that had been gone for 20 years, with the answer to Israel's problems.....

- A. And He starts singing dancing, He starts praising, He starts worshipping, they have been sacrificing bulls
- B. This is where we picked up when we started the message...
- C. And as David is Worshipping God: His s wife thinks that it is a disgrace that the King of Israel is dancing around**
- D. The Man that just brought the ark back is getting ridiculed... Seriously
- E. He has just solved Israel's problems" He has just brought back the presence, and you are going to make fun of him for dancing, and worshipping???
- F. See when you have lived away from God's presence, but then you get it back.... It really doesn't matter what other people think**

XXIX. So why is David's wife so upset with David?

- A. I don't think Mical had caught a real revelation of God's love... (David was a man after God's own heart, he knew he had been missing something
- B. In Luke 7: 47 there is a story about Jesus and a woman with some perfume..... (he that is forgiven much, loves much**
- C. See, I think David knew what God had done for him: helped him, delivered him, Loved him.....**
- D. And I think David had great Love for God
- E. Worship and adoration, and praise were not an obligation to David...
- F. David wanted the presence of God in his life: and when He got it: he didn't care who knew: He was going to do everything he could to keep it.....

XXX. I think His wife had grown accustomed to living without God presence and it made her bitter and offended..... will do the same for us!!

XXX. And I feel like today, that God is saying that a lot of us have lost his presence.

- A. Maybe you have lost your faith, you have lost your passion for him, you have quit serving him, or maybe you have just put him on a shelf.....
- B. yea, you still go to church, , you still believe in Jesus..... But you lost his presence, that

relationship, that desire to be with God

- C. Maybe You lost his presence by not putting him first, you lost it because you wanted to fit in , you lost it because he/she seemed more appealing...
- D. Maybe you lost your faith because of Life's circumstances, a Loss, Heartache

XXX.I want you to know today, That God wants to return to you// Return Home!

- A. Whatever has been Lost, Stolen, or Forfeited..... God wants to Restore!
- B. He wants you to know Him, and love Him,
- C. I believe that God is saying what is it worth to you to have it back: is it worth praying, is it worth losing a friend, is it worth giving up some scrolling time to read or pray? Is it worth repenting and turning?
- D. It took a man after his own heart to bring it back,,,,,
- E. And I believe God is looking tonight for a man and a woman that will bring it back::: To Invite Him in all areas of their Lives, to Live for him, and to Share with others
- F. In my own life, I feel like there have been times where I have distracted.....time to focus on him!!

Conclusion: So whats the Solution? How do we get our passion, zeal, peace, relationship back if we have lost it???

XXXI.3 Final points before we Pray:

A.#1 Abinadab the Priest had to altar his Life to host the ARK: So do we.... (This is not saying you must get right before your saved.....) I am talking to a predominantly saved group.

- B. Think about it; I doubt the priest lived in a mansion. Probably a 1 bedroom house
- C. This guy had to re-arrange everything for the Ark
- D. It changed how He lived
- E. In the same way, our life should be re-arranged for God
- F. I am not just inviting God in. He isn't a can of soup that we stick by the others in the Pantry
- G. No we arrange everything else around him

XXXII. 2nd Point: God is Holy/ He has a standard/ and WE must follow that

- A. Did you know the story I read was the 2nd attempt to move the Ark to Jersalem?
- B. The first attempt came 3 months earlier
- C. and you know what happened, the Ark started to move as they transported it and someone touched it and they died....
- D. Crazy
- E. Why would they die? Weren't they just trying to help?

XXXIII.Of course they were trying to help, but Here is the principle: God is Holy

- A. He set up the rules; don't touch it, only if you're a Priest
- B. I think in America we do a great job of talking about the Grace and the love of God.....
but prolly not much on the Fear of the Lord
- C. God Is Holy and should be Feared
- D. **Proverbs 1:7**: The Fear of God is the beginning of Knowledge

Final Point: God is a God of 2nd Chances

- A. Even though they messed up moving the Ark the first Time; God gave them Grace.....
and they got the Ark back to Jerusalem
- B. If you're here today and you have messed up (welcome to the Club)
- C. There is Grace to get back up and follow and Serve God!!!!
- D. Lets Go!!!! Your not too far Gone!!!

Altar: Listen, We don't have the Ark any more, Jesus made a new way.....

- A. Ask yourself tonight; Have you lost his presence??
- B. Tonight if your empty, if you feel broken, what you need is his presence; I want to pray
for you

Salvation: