

## 16--Uzzah's View of David—Zeal Without Knowledge

2 Samuel 6:1-10; 1 Chronicles 13

Many moons ago, I was holding a gospel meeting down in Arkansas and the family I had stayed with owned a boat and enjoyed going to the lake to go water skiing. One hot afternoon, they invited me to go out on the lake and try my hand at doing some water skiing. It looked like a blast. So, I took them up on the offer and we went to the lake.

I went through the instructions and, finally, it was my turn to get onto the water skis and give it a shot. They revved up the boat engine and took off and about a half second after I finally got vertical on the skis I went splat into the water. I swam back to the rope (hard work by itself) and then they tried again. Faceplant into the water. I tried again and I think I might have made it two whole seconds before I wiped out all over again. After several attempts, I just decided to get back into the boat and let somebody else try their turn.



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**“Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God”**

**2 Samuel 6:7 (NKJV)**

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The lady I stayed with (probably the age of my own mother) took those water skis and just skied all over the lake as easy as walking down the street. How embarrassing! I really wanted to have ski like she did but I just did not have the experience or the technique to do it right and found myself dealing with failure time and again.

Life can be like that at times. We can be excited and zealous and sincere and, yet, all the excitement and zeal and sincerity in the world cannot make up for our lack of knowledge or experience. We try to hit the ground running towards a certain goal and faceplant nearly as soon as we get started.

In the life of David, we definitely see a faceplant moment in the account where we learn of the death of Uzzah. This failure on David's part leads to the lost life of Uzzah. David is now king over Judah and Israel and, after several victories over the Philistines, he is ready to bring the ark of God home to Jerusalem. The ark had been in Kirjath Jearim for nearly twenty years before David brought it back to a more honored position (1 Samuel 7:2). Because of this long awaited moment, David wanted this to be a celebration for Israel (2 Samuel 6:5). Unfortunately, the parade turned into a funeral processional after Uzzah is struck dead for touching the ark as it was being transported on a cart. There are some valuable lessons to learn from David and Uzzah's misdirected zeal. Think for a moment about the consequences of zeal for the Lord without knowledge.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-5. Is there anything in this text which would seem to indicate David or Uzzah was insincere in their efforts? What might be some good qualities we see from these men within this text?

2. Read the following verses from the book of Psalms (Psalm 24:1-5; 30:1-5; 103:1-2; 108:1; 138:1). How would you describe King David's attitude toward the worship of God based on these psalms?

3. Both Uzzah and David seem sincere in their efforts. Yet, what occurs as they transport the ark back home towards Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6:6-7)? How does David feel about Uzzah's death (6:8-10)?

4. By looking at other Scriptures, we learn about why Uzzah was struck dead during this processional. How had God commanded his ark to be carried (Exodus 37:3-4; Numbers 4:15; 7:9)? Do God's instructions matter?

5. The book of Chronicles gives us more information about the final transport of the ark. What instructions does David give during the second attempt (1 Chronicles 15:2, 12-15)?

### **Key Lessons:**

- God desires zeal with knowledge (Matthew 7:21-23; Romans 10:1-3).
- We have no right to be angry with God when we ignore His instructions (1 Corinthians 14:40).
- Transporting the ark (which points to Christ) required a certain order, a certain way. Likewise, coming to Christ as the Way is done on God's terms, not our own (Jn 14:6).

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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