

This week...

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 13:1-14; Luke 18:9-14

Monday 1 Chronicles 13:1-4 *“David conferred with each of his officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, ‘If it seems good to you and if it is the will of the LORD our God, let us send word far and wide to the rest of our brothers throughout the territories of Israel, and also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their towns and pasturelands, to come and join us. Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of the LORD during the reign of Saul.’”*

Godly counsel is extremely important in the lives of those who desire to follow and do the will of God. David was impressed to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. As king, he could have made the decision on his own, but he was wise enough to involve many other wise, key people. How do you make decisions? Do you go it alone, or do you seek the counsel from others also interested in pleasing God? How about in church life? Is **godly** counsel sought?

Tuesday 1 Chronicles 13:4 *“Let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of the LORD during the reign of Saul.”*

Read up on the origins of the Ark in Genesis 37 and of its capture and return in 1 Samuel 3-7. It represented God’s glory and presence and contained several important treasures, including the stone tablets of Moses, Aaron’s rod, and a jar of manna. Eventually it came to rest in the great temple in the Holy of Holies, rather than in a tent carried from place to place.

Wednesday 1 Chronicles 13:7-8 *“They moved the ark of God from Abinadab’s house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets”*

While this seems so right at first glance, there were a couple of major problems with David’s plan. Can you point those out? How often do we make decisions and move forward in our own strength and knowledge, even taking shortcuts and supposedly improving how things are done, only to run into big problems? Even the biggest show and fanciest celebration cannot change God’s desires and instructions.

Thursday 1 Chronicles 13:9-10 *“When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD’S anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.”*

Having the best intentions does not excuse us from doing what is right in God’s eyes. Most would have seen Uzzah as a hero and protector of the things of God, but as is pointed out a little later, he was very much mistaken in his actions. It is not uncommon for many today to skirt God’s commands and directives because of their “good intentions” or desire to be “fair”. She is no hero who violates God’s instruction.

Friday 1 Chronicles 13:12 *“David was afraid of God that day and asked, ‘How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?’”*

What happened that day returned the fear of the Lord to an entire nation. Do we fear God in such a way today? Pray and study about your “best intentions”, and learn if that is what God desires.