**A Convenient Comfortable Ride Is Not Always The Best Choice**

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**The Way Church**

**Brother David S. Wilson**

Message Title: A Convenient Comfortable Ride Is Not Always The Best Choice

Message Truth: God’s commands cannot be sacrificed for convenience. God’s Word must be the final authority in our lives. God is an “Unstoppable Force,” get out of His way and follow.

Scripture: **2 Samuel 6:1-7**

**Again David gathered all *the* choice *men* of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baal Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim. 3 So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which *was* on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 5 Then David and all the house of Israel played *music* before the Lord on all kinds of *instruments of* fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.**

**6 And when they came to Nachon’s threshing floor, Uzzah put out *his hand* to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 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.**

A little history:

The Ark of the Covenant had been captured by the Philistines nearly 20 years prior to this incident (I Sam 4-7), before David became king. The Ark was Israel’s national treasure and most sacred object; it was the presence of God among His people. It was kept in the Tabernacle, in the Most Holy Place, a curtained-off location where only the High Priest would enter on the Day of Atonement. The Philistines captured the Ark, however, they wanted no part of it after God destroyed the idol of their god Dagon and the people were stricken with tumors. They passed the Ark form place to place with the same disastrous results finally leading to its return to Israel. Abinadab was housing the Ark in Kiriath-Jearim (approx. 20 miles west of Jerusalem) after its return from the Philistines. When David established his throne in Jerusalem, he determined to bring the Holy Ark to his new capital, to provide the focus for worship and a rallying point for the nation.

1. Uzzah exchanged God’s holy commands for his convenience.

 A. His intentions started off in violation of God’s commands.

 B. His intentions were good only in his, not His eyes.

 C. God’s actions **WERE NOT** driven by Uzzah’s intentions.

**Numbers 7:9 But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs *was* the service of the holy things, *which* they carried on their shoulders.**

2. Uzzah stepped on a holy land mine.

1. God’s Word is the final authority.
2. Desire and intent does not determine destination.

 Direction determines destination.

**Numbers 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry *them;* but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.**

**“These *are* the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry.**

3. God is an Unstoppable Force we are not.

1. God stopped the transport because it was not being done

 according to His Word.

B. God does not need our help, He requires our obedience.

“Perhaps we’re like Uzzah in the way we casually regard the sacred. We come to church expecting to be entertained. People in awe of God never make the complaint that church is boring. Uzzah thought he was protecting the Ark--Perhaps we’re also like Uzzah in our need to defend God before unbelievers. You don’t defend a lion—you simply get out of his way.”—Robert Leroe

 C. God expects His children to do it His way.

 The Philistines earlier also used an oxcart to return the

 captured Ark, but their ignorance was overlooked.

**Exodus 25:12-14**

**12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put *them* in its four corners; two rings *shall be* on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 And you shall make poles *of* acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.**

Let us close with these final thoughts, this incident was not an accident, the stumbling oxen and the sliding of the Ark was God at work. God stopped the procession. God was not in opposition to the new location, Jerusalem; He was opposed to the defiant means of transport. We must understand God is in control and He will use our obedience to accomplish much, but He will deal with our disobedience. The Ark was divinely guided straight back to Israel. The Philistines had no thought nor understanding of how The Ark should be transported. The Israelites, on the other hand, knew how to treat the Ark of the Covenant. The lesson here is, we may boldly approach God, but with reverence and respect.