



"When We Forget God Is Holy"

2 Samuel 6

September 27, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 6:1-23

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried 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, were driving the new cart, 4 with the ark of God, and Ahio went before the ark. 5 And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" 10 So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David. But David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household.

12 And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. 13 And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. 14 And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn. 16 As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. 17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. 18 And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts 19 and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house. 20 And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" 21 And David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. 22 I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." 23 And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

MAIN THEME

David sincerely wanted to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and establish the city as Israel's spiritual center. His desire was good, but he became careless with God's holiness. Instead of following God's instructions for Levites to carry the ark with poles, Israel placed it on a cart. When Uzzah reached out and touched the ark, he died.

This difficult moment teaches us that sincerity is no substitute for honoring God's holiness. God is loving, faithful, and merciful, but he is also infinitely pure and worthy of reverence. His holiness reveals the seriousness of our sin, drives us to our knees, and shows us why we desperately need a Savior.

After a three-month pause, David recognized that Israel had not sought God according to his rule. This time the ark was carried properly, and David worshiped with wholehearted joy. Reverence and joy are not opposites. When we understand who God is and remember the salvation he has given us, we have every reason to rejoice.

Michal despised David's joyful worship and tried to shame him, but David refused to let the fear of people steal the joy God had placed in his heart. We can worship God freely and wholeheartedly while remaining close to Scripture, receiving wise counsel, and remembering that our worship is ultimately before the Lord.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Sincerity Is No Substitute for Honoring God's Holiness

2 Samuel 6:1–11; Numbers 4:15; 1 Chronicles 15:13

- What was good about David's desire to bring the ark to Jerusalem?
- What instructions had Israel overlooked, and why did that matter?
- Why can sincere intentions never replace obedience to what God has said?
- Where might you be tempted to rely on good intentions rather than carefully following God's Word?

2. God's Holiness Shows Us Our Need for a Savior

Isaiah 6:1–7; Romans 3:21–26; Hebrews 9:11–14

- What does Uzzah's death reveal about the seriousness of God's holiness and human sin?
- Why is it important to remember God's holiness alongside his love, mercy, and faithfulness?
- How does God's holiness help us understand the necessity of Christ's sacrifice?
- How does knowing that you are clothed in Christ's righteousness change the way you approach God?

3. A Heart That Honors God's Holiness Has Every Reason to Rejoice

2 Samuel 6:12–19; Psalm 96:1–9; Psalm 100:1–5

- What changed between David's first and second attempts to bring the ark to Jerusalem?
- What do David's dancing, sacrifices, and generosity reveal about his heart?
- Why are reverence for God and joyful worship meant to belong together?
- How can you offer your everyday work, relationships, and responsibilities to God with a joyful heart?

4. Don't Let the Fear of People Steal Your Joy

2 Samuel 6:16, 20–23; John 6:44; Galatians 1:10

- What seems to have motivated Michal's criticism of David?
- Why can criticism, shame, fear, or tradition pull us away from renewed faithfulness to God?
- How can we distinguish wholehearted worship from behavior that merely draws attention to ourselves?
- Where do you need to care less about people's approval and more about honoring the Lord?

PRAY

Dear Lord, forgive us for the times we have treated you casually or relied on sincere intentions instead of obeying your Word. Help us see the seriousness of our sin and the wonder of the righteousness we receive through Jesus Christ. Fill our hearts with reverence and joy. Teach us to worship you wholeheartedly in church and in the ordinary moments of life, and do not let fear, criticism, or the opinions of others steal the joy you have given us. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For Further Study:

- Exodus 25:10–22
- Numbers 4:1–15
- 1 Chronicles 15:1–15
- Isaiah 6:1–7
- Hebrews 9:11–14
- Psalm 96:1–9

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Building Your Life On God's Promises

2 Samuel 7:1–17