

# Lessons Learned from Uzzah

## Introduction

1. **Bible Character studies are good because we can learn from their life things that we should or should not be doing (Rom 15:4; 1 Cor 10:11).**
2. **This morning I want us to learn some valuable lessons from a man named Uzzah.**
  - A. **2 Samuel 6 records the occasion when David moved the ark of the covenant from Kiriath-jearim (KIR-ATH JEE-UH-RIM) to Jerusalem, after having conquered the city and making it his capital.**
    - 1) **Israel's worship to God was in shambles. The Ark had been captured by the Philistines in a battle when Eli was the judge in Israel.**
    - 2) **The Philistines brought the ark to the temple of Dagon in Ashdod and put it inside, but later removed it when the people of the city were smitten with a disease.**
      - a) **The Ark was transported from city to city by the Philistines when the people at each city became ill with the same disease.**
    - 3) **The leaders concluded that the disease was directly related to them having the Ark of the Covenant. They then returned it to Israel, and eventually placed it in Kiriath-jearim, in the home of Eleazar.**
  - B. **The ark then remained in Kiriath-jearim throughout the judgeship of Samuel and the forty years that Saul reigned as king in Israel.**

**C. When David became king, he resolved to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and to re-unite the divided worship.**

**1) David gathered 30,000 chosen men of Israel and proceeded to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem.**

**D. Understanding what had happened to the Ark of the Covenant, now let's find out where this man Uzzah comes in to play.**

**2 SAMUEL 6:3-7**

**1) Let's look at some lessons that we can learn from this incident:**

## **When God Gives Man a Pattern, God Expects Man to Follow That Pattern!**

1. **God had given Israel a pattern for transporting the ark of the covenant. Long ago in the days of Aaron they were given instructions.**
  - A. **Numbers 4:1-15 gives them **specific instructions** on how to prepare the ark and the emblems for travel. Poles were to be inserted and the sons of Kohath, the son of Aaron, were to carry the ark **on their shoulders**.**
2. **For whatever reason, the ark was not transported according to the Bible pattern.**
  - A. **Could it be that the ark was away from the tabernacle for so long that the people forgot or became ignorant of the law?**
  - B. **Could it be that the people lost the degree of reverence which God required of them?**
  - C. **Could it be that they thought they could transport it in a better way in which God had authorized?**

*Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*

3. **Because they did not OBEY, the Lord punished Uzzah, and David learned a valuable lesson on obedience.**
  - A. **When the people placed the ark on their “new cart”, they committed a serious trespass; they ignored the divinely appointed order and substituted their own arrangements.**
    - 1) **David did not have a “thus saith the Lord” for what He allowed to happen, as a result a man died!**

**B. Did David learn his lesson? YES. Three months later, before bringing the ark from the house of Obed-edom he said:**

*1 Chr 15:2 "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."*

- 1) **When instructing the Levites in bringing the ark to Jerusalem, he reflected on the sin committed by Uzzah saying:**

**1 Chronicles 15:12-13**

4. **Many brethren the world over need to learn from Uzzah. The service to God has changed with the support of Orphan Homes, Socials, Ice-Cream suppers, athletic clubs, gymnasiums, various entertainment, instrumental music, and on and on!**

**A. Have not all the brethren read about Uzzah? Have not we read:**

*Isa 1:12 When you come to appear before Me, **who** has required this from your hand, to trample My courts?*

*Heb 8:5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things **according to the pattern** shown you on the mountain."*

*Exod 25:40 And see to it that you make them **according to the pattern** which was shown you on the mountain.*

- 1) **Maybe these brethren feel that they have not committed so serious an offense as to justify the division which exists in the Lord's church today.**
- a) **The brethren will remind all that they have a good, honest, and **sincere heart** - but guess what --- "So Did UZZAH"**

## Sins Committed with Good Intentions Are Still Punishable by God

1. Many people truly believe that “deeds committed with a good, honest, and sincere heart do not jeopardize a man’s soul?”

A. Do you think that this kind of attitude could persuade Uzzah that this is so?

1) Uzzah had very good intentions - intending to steady the cart.

a) Uzzah **did not** hearken to God’s exact Word’s. But God **did do** exactly as He said He would do!

*Num 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.***

b) Good intentions do NOT sanctify wrong actions. Never has and never will!

2. In writing to the Romans, Paul commended their zeal for God but condemned them for not practicing the righteousness of God.  
**Romans 10:1-4**

## Failure to Follow God's Divine Pattern Is a Sign of Irreverence

1. **The man that does not show enough regard for the Lord to inquire from His Word to see what He has said about a matter does not show reverence for the Will of God!**
  - A. **A man speaking **for** "Homosexuality" should first see what God has said concerning the subject.**
  - B. **Before deciding **how often** one should partake of the Lord's Supper, they should first find out what God has said about it.**
    - 1) **The person that rushes to speak or act without consulting the Will of God shows disrespect for God's work in revelation.**

*Prov 16:1-3 The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD. All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits. Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.*

## The Counsel of Great Men Does Not Constitute Authority from God

1. **When David prepared to bring the ark of the covenant from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem, he conferred with prominent men.**  
**1 Chronicles 13:1-4**
  - A. **The point we need to make here is this. Just because it may be right in the eyes of the people, did not necessarily make it right in the eyes of God.**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. The actions of this one man thousands of years ago, still give us something to seriously think about today.**
- 2. If Uzzah could live again, no doubt he would make sure that before he did anything, he would ensure that it was right before the Lord.**
- 3. Do we have this attitude today? Are we ensuring that we are doing only the Will of the Lord?**

### **DON'T BE SURPRISED AT JUDGMENT!**

*Matt 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

- A. Uzzah had his chance to learn and understand, but for whatever reason he did not and it cost him dearly!**
  - 1) Don't be an Uzzah and have people talking for thousands of years about your good intentions, except that you did not DO what God commanded.**
  - 2) Won't you respond to the gospel of Christ this morning and obey God's Pattern that has been given to you?**
- 4. God's plan of salvation: H-B-R-C-B-LF**

