

2 Samuel 6:15-23
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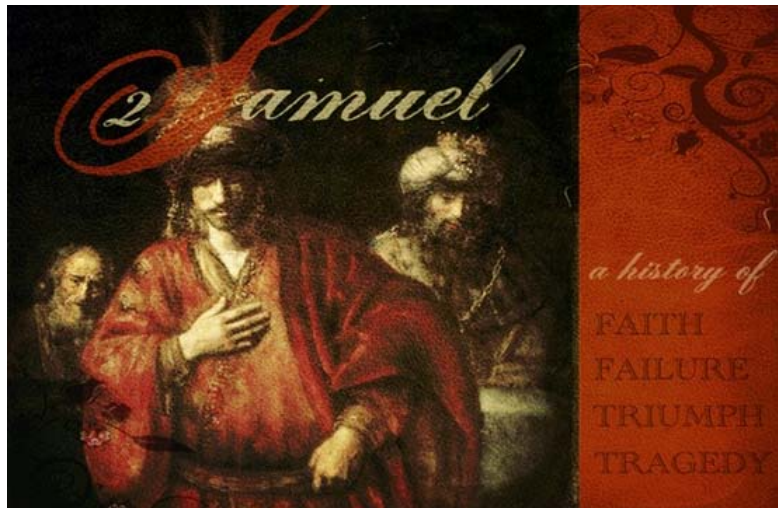
[2 Samuel 6:15-23](#)

True Worship

REVIEW

Chapter 6 began with David having a GREAT MOTIVE.

David was a man who LOVED the Lord and LONGED to experience the presence and glory of God on a personal level. But he was also a shepherd king. He wanted to lead the flock of God into the experience of the glory of God and the worship of the God of Glory. He didn't dance out of obligation but out of heartfelt worship.



KEY INSIGHT:

This expression of David's heart showed that he had a genuine emotional link to God. To accomplish that he sought to bring the Ark of the Covenant — which represented the glory of God to the nation — up to Jerusalem.

GREAT MOTIVE — But he sought to carry it out in his own wisdom and by his own methods. What followed was an object lesson in the truth of Proverbs 14:12.

[Proverbs 14:12 \(ESV\)](#) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death

THE CRUCIAL LESSON from last week — Man can not experience the glory of God or meet with the God of Glory on his own terms

CRUCIAL LESSON:

Man can not usher in the glory of God — or lead others to meet the God of Glory on his own terms.

A big parade — Musicians — A brand new cart — A team of gifted men — seemed in the mind of David to be the right way to bring the ark of God to the people of God. The result was death! David was ANGRY with the Lord over it. He couldn't understand why his good intentions weren't enough.

CRUCIAL LESSON:

God is concerned with both our MOTIVE and our METHODS. You see God has prescribed in very clear terms

- the way that man must approach Him
- the way man must serve Him

After 3 months David discovered from the WORD of God the WAYS of God concerning the Ark of the Covenant.

[1 Chronicles 15:2-3 \(ESV\)](#) Then David said that no one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, for the Lord had chosen them to carry the ark of the Lord and to minister to him forever. 3And David assembled all Israel at Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the Lord to its place, which he had prepared

for it.

We pick up in [2 Samuel 6:14](#).

14And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. 15So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn (shophar).

KEY OBSERVATION:

David didn't hold back anything in his own expression of worship. His expression of worship was not born out of – "look at me!" It was the response of his heart to WHO God is and WHAT he had done!

Strange Fire -

God had made it clear that the priest was to get his fire from off of the altar. Any other fire that was taken to ignite the incense or burn the sacrifices was STRANGE FIRE.

[Leviticus 10:1-2 \(ESV\)](#) *Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized (strange) fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.*

CRUCIAL:

There is only ONE LEGITIMATE FIRE for worship and ministry. WHERE does it come from? The ALTAR! The ALTAR speaks to us of the CROSS

[2 Corinthians 5:14-15 \(ESV\)](#) *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all..... 15and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

ANYTHING that we do to IGNITE or MOTIVATE worship that does not ORIGINATE with Jesus is an affront to the HOLY LOVE of God.

CRUCIAL POINT:

Worship is:

- NOT about US – it is about JESUS
- NOT for us – It is for JESUS!

WE are:

- NOT the recipients in worship
- the GIVERS.

When we say – I just don't FEEL very much like worshipping.. We are essentially saying – "My emotions trump the RIGHT of God to RECEIVE worship from me.... trump His WORTHINESS to RECEIVE worship!"

But we can understand the tolerance / acceptance of this attitude when we bare in mind the fact that most people are in churches today have embraced a form of Christianity that is EGOcentric rather than THEOcentric – MAN-centered rather than CHRIST-centered.

- 1.) the error of making emotions the center of our Christian life
- 2.) the error of having faith in Christ without emotion

There IS a difference between EMOTIONALISM and EMOTIONS. In the Christian life emotions must not be manipulated and they also must not be REPRESSED.

[Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones](#) — How can we have such a great faith without great emotion?

Isn't it interesting that we don't think that dancing is strange after a walk-off home run. It isn't strange to jump up and down and shout when our own child makes a great play or scores the goal. Anything of hands raised at a concert. Why should we think such things are strange in worship to God?

CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

We must ALWAYS allow the WORD of God to DEFINE what FAITH and PRACTICE. We do not begin with our own ideas as to HOW we are to praise and worship God. Rather we go to what God has REVEALED to us about praise and worship. Let's for a moment look at one of the words in our Bibles that is translated into our English language as PRAISE.

The Hebrew word HALAL — It is used 166 times in 139 verses of the Old Testament.

Let's look at two of them:

[Psalm 35:18 \(ESV\)](#) (titled of David) I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise you.

[Psalm 22:22 \(ESV\)](#) (titled a psalm of David) I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

We read those verses in the English and we think of an exhortation to sing a praise song. But let's look at the literal meaning of the word HALAL.

- To be clear; to shine; hence to make a show, to boast; and thus to be (clamorously) foolish; to rave; also to celebrate.

With those definitions in mind let's re-read those same verses and see what the Old Testament believer understood the passage to mean.

Psalm 35:18 I will thank you in the great congregation; in the mighty throng I will make a show, boast; and be (clamorously) foolish; I will rave about you; and celebrate You

Psalm 22:22 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation make a show, boast; and be (clamorously) foolish; I will rave about you; and celebrate you:

These hands were MADE to lifted to God in praise These voices were made to be lifted in praise to God.

U2:

I was born to sing for you / I didn't have a choice but to lift you up / And sing whatever song you wanted me to / I give you back my voice / From the womb my first cry, it was a joyful noise... / Only love, only love can leave such a mark / But only love, only love can heal such a scar / Justified till we die, you and I will magnify / The Magnificent /

THE OVER RIDING RULE when it comes to our EXPRESSION of worship ——— All ABOUT Jesus — All TO Jesus — All FOR Jesus — All EYES on Jesus — NOTHING done that DISTRACTS from Jesus!

David's dancing was appropriate in the context. It was NOT a distraction — it was a fitting part of a great celebration and procession. Had David expressed his worship in this manner on the Day of Atonement it would be out of context — wrong.

David was wearing a linen ephod. It is a mistake to think that David was immodest. 1 Chronicles 15:27 indicates that David was dressed just like all the other priests and Levites in this procession.

[1 Chronicles 15:27 \(ESV\)](#) David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as also were all the Levites who were carrying the ark, and the singers and Chenaniah the leader of the music of the singers.

David set aside his royal robes and dressed just like everyone else in the procession.

[2 Samuel 6:15 \(ESV\)](#) So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn (shophar).

Again – nothing held back! But again – Fitting in the context.

[2 Samuel 6:16 \(ESV\)](#) 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,

DANCING (also in v. 14) does not appear elsewhere in Scripture – Used to describe a whirling dance. David saw dancing as an expression of joy

[Psalm 30:11-12 \(ESV\)](#) You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, 12 that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

We also find dancing in the Psalms as a part of jubilant worship

[Ps. 149:3 – Ps. 150:4](#)

[2 Samuel 6:16 \(ESV\)](#) ...and she despised him in her heart.

INTERESTING:

The Holy Spirit chooses to identify Michal not as David's wife but as the daughter of Saul – because she so resembles her father Saul in his lack of spiritual discernment. She should have been rejoicing with David "and all the house of Israel"

[2 Samuel 6:17-20 \(ESV\)](#) 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. 18And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts 19and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, 20And David returned to bless his household. But (in contrast to blessing David) 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!"

INTERESTING:

Michal accuses David of uncovering himself. Apparently she was bitter because she was the wife of the king – and felt her royalty was diminished because David was not dressed like a king – nor was he projecting the dignity of royalty by dancing. David was a WORSHIPPER long before he was king. THAT is why God wanted David to BE king.

NOTE IT WELL:

Bitterness and jealousy distorts reality! David was NOT disrobing before female servants. David was NOT uncovered in any sense of the word! As we already learned in v.14

KEY INSIGHT:

The carnal mind NEVER understands worship!

REMEMBER — Mary pouring out her jar of precious ointment on Jesus! The disciples viewed it as WASTEFUL!

HERE — Michal thought it was BENEATH the King of Israel to express his emotions before God.

[Spurgeon](#) —

No doubt, there are particularly nice and dainty people who will censure God's chosen if they live wholly to his praise, and they will call them eccentric, old-fashioned, obstinate, absurd, and I don't know what besides. From the window of their superiority they look down upon us.

[2 Samuel 6:21-22 \(ESV\)](#) *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 make merry before the Lord.*

221 will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes.

KEY OBSERVATION:

David didn't let Michal's sarcastic criticism ruin his day. He simply explained the truth — "I did it for God, not for you."

KEY INSIGHT:

This is not a justification for an "anything goes" in worship mentality. When David considered the context of his expression or form of worship — his conscience was clear. He knew his dancing wasn't inappropriate.

When someone's expression of worship or form of worship is NOT appropriate to the context of a meeting they can not simply justify it by saying, "It was before the LORD."

[2 Samuel 6:21 \(ESV\)](#) *...to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord...*

KEY OBSERVATION:

David did not say — Over my people' — he acknowledged that they were not his people — they were THE LORD'S PEOPLE.

[2 Samuel 6:22 \(ESV\)](#) *I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes....*

KEY OBSERVATION:

David didn't dance to show others how spiritual he was — In fact — In David's heart and mind his dancing was actually a thing that humbled him.

[Spurgeon](#) —

He felt that whatever Michal's opinion of him might be, it could not be more humbling than his own view of himself. Brother, if any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him; for you are worse than he thinks you to be.

[2 Samuel 6:23 \(ESV\)](#) *And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.*

We can not say with certainty as to WHY Michal was barren. It may have been:

- because after this moment David never had marital relations with her again.
- because of God's judgment upon her life for having contempt for David's expression of worship.

Certainly it is a picture of the bareness that can exist where there is a low view of worship (and or bitterness

and jealousy.) What a contrast to the FRUITFULNESS of those in the Scripture who genuinely worshipped and adored the Lord

The church in Antioch –

Acts 13:2 (ESV) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

In this context of worship God spoke – People were ordained by God. The first missionary venture of the church was birthed. Everything that followed in Acts 13-14 was the FRUIT of the Church exalting and worshipping Jesus!

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