
Sermon Text Discussion Notes 2/24/2019

“The Gospel According to the Ark” from 2 Samuel 5-6 by Drew Hunter

Overview

After much trial and waiting through 1 Samuel, David has finally been appointed as God's King. He takes over after Saul's reign, moves the capital to Jerusalem, and then seeks to bring the ark to its rightful place. The focus of this text is centered the ark itself where we see:

- 1) The gift of the ark
- 2) The danger of the ark
- 3) The grace of the ark
- 4) The joy of the ark

The joy David comes to understand in the ark is a gospel-joy: that God is holy, we are not, and through Christ we receive his mercy and love.

Quotations

“Consider now the story of Uzzah. The ark of the covenant was being carried in a cart. This was not the way it was designed to be carried. It should have been on the shoulders of priests. When one of the oxen stumbled the ark looked like it was going to fall. Uzzah keeps it from tipping in the mud. God's reaction was not, “Thank you, Uzzah!” No, God killed Uzzah instantly. Uzzah believed that mud would desecrate the ark, but mud is just dirt and water obeying God. Mud is not evil. God's law was not meant to keep the ark pure from the earth, but from the dirty touch of a human hand. Uzzah presumed his hands were cleaner than the dirt. God said no.” -R.C. Sproul

Understanding & Application

- 1) What events in chapter 5 highlight David's ascension to being the God-appointed king of Israel?
- 2) What did the ark symbolize to the Israelites? Why did it hold such importance and meaning to God's people?
- 3) What was your initial reaction to reading about Uzzah being struck down by the Lord for touching the ark? How would you respond to someone who claims this text (and others like it) showcases an archaic god with an outdated ethic?
- 4) Explain all the ways the rules for handling the ark were ignored or disobeyed by David when he first sought to move the ark.
- 5) What was different about the way David had the ark moved the second time compared to how it was moved at first?
- 6) If you are willing to be honest and vulnerable with your group, what is it that keeps you from dancing, singing, praying, and otherwise living for God with all of your might?