

OCTOBER SURPRISE: BRING BACK THE GLORY DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

1 Chronicles 13:1-14 ESV

David consulted with the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with every leader. ² And David said to all the assembly of Israel, “If it seems good to you and from the LORD our God, let us send abroad to our brothers who remain in all the lands of Israel, as well as to the priests and Levites in the cities that have pasturelands, that they may be gathered to us. ³ Then let us bring again the ark of our God to us, for we did not seek it in the days of Saul.” ⁴ All the assembly agreed to do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people

⁵ So David assembled all Israel from the Nile of Egypt to Lebo-hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kiriath-jearim. ⁶ And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriath-jearim that belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim. ⁷ And they carried the ark of God on a new cart, from the house of Abinadab, and Uzzah and Ahio were driving the cart. ⁸ And David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets.

⁹ And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzzah put out his hand to take hold of the ark, for the oxen stumbled. ¹⁰ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he put out his hand to the ark, and he died there before God. ¹¹ And David was angry because the LORD had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. ¹² And David was afraid of God that day, and he said, “How can I bring the ark of God home to me?” ¹³ So David did not take the ark home into the city of David, but took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. ¹⁴ And the ark of God remained with the household of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that he had.

Opening Thoughts:

- How do you describe the Glory of God? What are some occasions in the Bible where the Glory was made manifest? How did people respond?
- Have you ever “tasted” the glory of God? What was the experience like?

Life Principle: We can have the right “what,” but the wrong “how.”

We can learn three “rights and 3 wrongs” from David’s determination to bring the Glory back.

1) It was the right pursuit, but the wrong process (verses 3-7).

- It seemed right in the eyes of all the people. What was wrong with this thinking? Who did David consult first?
- Read Proverbs 14:12. What should the first question be and to whom should it be asked? Can you think of a time you consulted others before consulting God in prayer?
- It was the right pursuit, but began in the wrong way. Always begin with, “What is God saying?”

- Life principle: The first step sets the destination.
- According to verse 5, David assembled a big crowd and put on a big show and called it revival. How does this demonstrate that David's process was all wrong?
- Life principle: We don't know what we want, we want what we know. How does this principle challenge our thoughts and expectations of revival?
- Life principle: An attempt to carry on with convenience always comes at a cost.
- According to verse 7, David decided to put the ark on a NEW cart. What was wrong with this decision? Have you ever tried to do things your way and then asked God to bless it? How can you prevent doing this again?
- Life principle: Man is looking for the best way; God is looking for the broken way. He knows our intentions and He watches our actions.

2) It was the right thought, but asked at the wrong time.

- In verse 12, David laments, "How can I bring the ark of God home to me?" This was the right question, but at the wrong time. This should have been David's first question.
- Uzzah reached out and touched the ark with his flesh. What can you learn from this? Did God's response seem too harsh? Why or why not?
- Life principle: You can't expect God's blessings outside of God's ways.
- What did you learn from the contrast of Abinadab's house where the ark resided for 20 years, and Obed-edom's house where the ark resided for 3 months? What can you learn from this?
- Obed-edom was a Gentile who honored the Presence of God, and would not let the ark leave without going with it. He was eventually adopted in the Levitical tribe and became a priest.
- Life principle: The greatest blessings always follow the greatest honor.

3) There is a second chance to make right your previous wrongs.

- Read 1 Chronicles 15:12-15. David got a second chance to bring back the glory of God and host His Presence. According to verse 13, what was the reason the Lord God broke out against them? How can this be applied to our lives today? In what way do we "break out against him and not seek him according to the rule?"
- David declared they would do three things: (a) consecrate ourselves (b) shoulder the burden (c) sacrifice our pride. How did these actions display unity, humility, and honor?
- Life principle: Every step you take, consider that you are carrying the Presence of the Lord.

Application:

- David sacrificed oxen every six paces as he carried the ark. This was an elaborate, excessive, over-the-top sacrifice.
- This communicated atonement, consecration, longing for fellowship.
- The first time the people drove it. The second time the Presence drove it.
- Consecrate yourself and declare, "I will bear the burden of Your Presence."
- Lord, I want to carry your glory!