

David: Highs and Lows

David and Michal
2 Samuel 6

Introduction:

In 2 Samuel 6 we read about David's plan to bring the ark of God from a little place called Kiriath Jearim where it had been kept in storage by a priest named Abinadab. This would be like discovering that the original manuscript of the U. S. Constitution was rolled up in someone's garage in Catasauqua, PA.

The ark had been MIA for about 30 years. You'll find that story in 1 Samuel 6. As King, David had a vision for bringing the ark back to where it belonged. The ark represented the presence of God. It held specific reminders of God's guidance (tablets of stone), God's provision (container of manna), and God's power to save (the rod of Moses).

As the Ark of the Covenant entered the city of Jerusalem there was a massive public celebration. It was an act of worship, and the worship leader that day was King David. David led the way, dancing before the Lord with all his might. David's dancing was a response to the presence of God being restored once again at the center of the life of God's people. God had always been believed in – but now God was taking center stage in Jerusalem. God was being restored to his rightful place among them.

Maybe this is exactly what needs to happen in our own lives.

Plenty of people believe in God – but somehow God has been relegated to the tool shed of their life. God is highly respected, but not very relevant to ordinary daily life. Like the ark of the covenant in Kiriath Jearim, our God is good but remote, holy but helpless, inspiring but insignificant.

What would it look like for us to do what David did? What would it look like to restore God to his rightful place in our lives?

Scripture Readings:

2 Samuel 6:12-23

For Discussion / Reflection:

1. How are you with “expressive” forms of worship? Is it comfortable for you, or not? What are some hindrances that keep us from wholehearted worship of God?

2. As the ark is entering Jerusalem, how would you summarize the differences between the experience of David, and that of his wife Michal?
3. Read 2 Sam. 6:21-22. What does David mean when he says he “will become even more undignified than this?”
4. What might help us to move from being spectators and critics to being fully engaged worshipers of God?
5. In what ways might we give God his “rightful place” in our lives?

Prayer:

Holy God, you invite us to celebrate your presence among us in many ways. We can worship with silent reverence and with exuberant praise. David danced before the Lord, but we confess that our own worship is often timid and rote. Our silence lacks awe. Our praise lacks joy. Forgive us for the ways we move through the motions of worship, failing to honor you with our whole heart. Pour out your grace on us now, that we might worship you with bold gladness, we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen..