

## 2 Samuel Series Slide

Steven Spielberg directed 3 movies in the 1980s that changed what we all believed about archaeology.

Suddenly, what was a dusty, boring career idea...became the most adventurous calling one could ever pursue. And we have Indiana Jones to thank.

After 1982's Raiders of the Lost Ark...Archaeology departments in universities experienced an uptick in enrollment. AND A LOT OF DISAPPOINTED STUDENTS ended up changing majors once they found that a whip and a fedora were not on the syllabus supply list.

Archaeology is almost NOTHING like what you see in those first 3 Indiana Jones films. But there is something that those first 3 films DID get right.

The Dangerous & Awe-inspiring Presence of God.

I know what you're thinking. We got the Ark of the Covenant in today's text...So looks like a Raiders of the Lost Ark kind of Day. But actually- I want to talk mostly about the 3rd Indiana Jones film- the Last Crusade.

In that movie, Indy is on the hunt... for the Holy Grail..the cup Christ drank from at the Last Supper.

In the climax of movie- Indy's Dad has been shot by the Nazi's...is bleeding out on the floor...and the only way to save him is to bring back water in the Holy Grail. But standing between Indy and the Grail- are 3 tests- with clues to how to pass them. And the consequence of getting the riddle wrong...is immediate death.

The First test- the only one I'm concerned with today...is called the breath of God. And Indy's clue...is 'Only the Penitent Man Shall Pass'.

So he walks into the temple repeating this phrase. He looks down and sees the bodies of Nazi's who have already tried to get through...unsuccessfully. He's whispering over and over and over... "Only the Penitent Man Shall Pass"...turning it over in his head... trying to figure out what that phrase has to do with surviving this test.

Then it starts to come to him. He says "The Penitent Man is Humble. Kneels before God. KNEEL!"

And just at that moment...as the wind blows through the spider webs...he hits his knees and does a forward roll and avoids being decapitated by spinning blades. Indy goes on to pass the next 2 tests...finds the grail, heals his Dad, and rides off into the

sunset as all the Nazi's are swallowed up in an earthquake as a John Williams symphony plays in the background.

But what is with that repeated phrase. "Only the Penitent Man Shall Pass"?

To be Penitent- means to be repentant. To show sorrow or regret for something you've done. It is to be humbled because you see your own sin...

It sounds strange...but there is no other way to continually know the joy of knowing God..than ongoing repentance.

Today, in 2 Samuel Chapter 6- we're going to see the whole cycle of sin, repentance, and joy...in a really strange story- That is part Indiana Jones...and part Footloose.

Remember Footloose? A small town has made it illegal to dance, until a group of teenagers decides to take on the local pastor and the city council so they can finally dance uninhibited?

### **"Only the Penitent Man Shall Dance: How Repentance Turns to Joy"- 2 Samuel 6**

Well- in this story today- King David has a little Kevin Bacon thing going on....

So now, just like Kevin Bacon did at that City Council meeting in Footloose...we're gonna go through...2 Samuel Chapter 6.

I think its gonna be most helpful today if we read a little bit...and then I make a point... and then we'll read a little more.

But to set a course for where we're headed here's the 6 things we typically go through when in the cycle of sin and repentance. This is what I want to bring out of this text.

**1) Minimization**

(Making your sin smaller)

**2) Frustration**

(at God or yourself)

**3) Repentance**

(in response to God's kindness)

**4) Worship**

(Humble Joy)

**5) Overflow**

(Others benefit- fruit from your root)

**6) Resistance**

(you become a target)

Perhaps you can remember it with the helpful acronym- MFRWOR

Ok 2 Samuel 6 (if you don't have a Bible...)

## **2 Samuel 6:2**

**2 [David] and all his troops set out to bring the ark of God from Baale-judah. The ark bears the Name, the name of the Lord of Armies who is enthroned between the cherubim.**

Ok, the Ark was a wooden box overlaid in gold that had two golden angels on the top of it and God told the people of Israel that it would represent his presence with them wherever they go. That's what it means that it "bears the name".

The question is- "Where has the Ark been?" Well- in 1 Samuel chapter 4-5, Israel had become very complacent with the Ark- basically- they were using it only like a good luck charm- while not thinking at all about the privilege and responsibility it was to be God's people representing him. But, they knew from their history- that where the Ark goes, they win battles. So they take it into battle, but God withdraws his favor and they lost the ark to the Phillistines.

The Philistines carried it to the temple of their god, Dagon. The next morning, however, the city was overrun with mice, all the leaders woke up with tumors, and the statue of Dagon had fallen on his face with his hands chopped off.

That didn't sit right with the Philistines- so they took the Ark to a different city...and the same thing happened there.

This happened a few times, and eventually they decided, "We don't want this thing" and they put it on a cart pulled by a couple of young cows...gave the cows a good wack and sent the Ark off to wherever it would land.

Well, the young cows pulling the cart miraculously turn in the exact direction of the Jewish tabernacle and start to walk the Ark home. When the cows lumber across the border into Israel, a guy named Shemesh recognizes the Ark and takes it to his house. I mean, free Ark, right?

But then, some of the people in his house get curious about the Ark and so they look inside it, just like the Nazis did in the First Indiana Jones movie, and they die instantly, just like the Nazis did in the movie.

So now, Shemesh says, "This thing is dangerous. I don't want it in my house" and he sends for some Israelite priests from the next city over to come get it, and they take it to the house of a guy named Abinadab. Abinadab puts it in one of his guest rooms, where it sits undisturbed for 20 years. (Visitors were like, "What's in that room?" and he's like, "I wouldn't go in there.")

## **2 Samuel 6:3-5**

**They set the ark of God on a new cart and transported it from Abinadab's house, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the cart 4 and brought it with the ark of God from Abinadab's house on the hill. Ahio walked in front of the ark. 5 David and the whole house of Israel were dancing before the Lord with all kinds of fir wood instruments, lyres, harps, tambourines, sistrums, and cymbals.**

Notice: Uzzah is a son of Abinadab. So he grew up with the Ark in his house for 20 years, in the guest room. He was familiar with it.

So David now that he's king, is bringing the Ark back to its proper home, and he's excited. He's genuinely worshipping God here...the mood is elated. Dancing, playing instruments... until.

### **v 6-7**

**6 When they came to Nacon's threshing floor, Uzzah reached out to the ark of God and took hold of it because the oxen had stumbled. 7 Then the Lord's anger burned against Uzzah, and God struck him dead on the spot for his irreverence, and he died there next to the ark of God.**

The party suddenly comes to a screeching halt. Nothing like God striking somebody dead to kill the vibe.

So what's going on here?

This seems a bit like an overreaction doesn't it? I mean, isn't Uzzah just trying to help? The Ark is about to fall over...and he reaches out to keep it upright.

Here's our first stop in the cycle.

### **1) Minimization (of God & your sin)**

Uzzah, having grown up with the Ark, became familiar with it. What used to be a sacred object placed at the center of the tabernacle...became a 20 year guest in his house. Its not that I think Uzzah had contempt for God, but the Ark didn't carry the meaning of God's presence like it was supposed to. Familiarity bred a kind of ho-hum attitude for Uzzah.

And this carried through for Israel. In all of the hubbub and excitement over David taking the throne and returning Israel to her former glory, nobody seems to notice that they are completely overlooking the way the Ark was supposed to be carried. In Exodus 25, God gives instructions that its supposed to be carried on poles, and underneath a tent- so

that no one would accidentally touch it. But Uzzah and Ahio, under David's leadership- are transporting it the same way the Phillistines did. On a cart.

This is failed leadership on David's part- and it costs Uzzah his life.

Both Uzzah and David minimize God's presence and ignore God's commands- because they just don't take them seriously.

Also- Uzzah minimizes his own sinfulness.

He reaches out to keep the Ark from touching the ground, because he thinks its better if he touches it than if the dirt does. But the dirt has never rebelled against the authority of God. Only sinful humans have done that. The dirt would not defile the ark, the sinfulness of Uzzah would do that. Uzzah considered himself more worthy to touch the ark than the ground.

I know that seems harsh- but that's the point. We tend to minimize our sin. I can prove it to you because most of us still use the phrase "I'm only human" when we sin.

We tend to compare ourselves to others when we sin. "OK, i was wrong- but not as bad as that guy!"

But humans were not made by God to be sinful. We don't sin because we're human, we sin because we're not human enough.

God made us to walk with him, to have fellowship with him, to be pure and undefiled like he is. But we chose a different way. We rebelled against him, minimized his holiness, the power of his presence, and decided we would make our own rules.

And it is that impurity clashing with the holiness of God that brings death to Uzzah.

Even a little bit of sin is enough to defile you compared to a Holy God.

Imagine drinking a glass of milk and I told you "its 99 percent pure except I have put one tiny droplet of a lethal flesh eating virus in it." You wouldn't drink it! Even the tiniest sin is enough to bring death in the presence of God. Its like a Kleenex landing on the Sun.

So here's my question to you.

Do you minimize God? Do you walk around with a Bible- the very Revelation of God- and instead of reading it and submitting to it- try to re-interpret it to make excuses for the way you want to live.

Like Uzzah? Have you become so familiar with Christianity that it just plays in the background of your life- but it really doesn't change the way you live?

Like David- do you minimize God's command- but nobody really thinks that about you because of how passionately you worship- or because you are in church every week or because you talk in a really spiritual way- but the truth is you are overlooking the simple commands of God to live a Holy life?

If so- pay attention to the rest of this chapter.

## **2 Samuel 6:8-10**

**David was angry because of the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, so he named that place Outburst Against Uzzah, as it is today. 9 David feared the Lord that day and said, "How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me? " 10 So he was not willing to bring the ark of the Lord to the city of David; instead, he diverted it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath.**

Just before this chapter, in chapter 5 the last thing that happened to David was a military victory against the Philistines. After that victory- David, exuberant that the Lord had defeated the Philistines for him- named the battlefield "The Lord bursts out". It was a victory cry of joy!

But now- He names the place where Uzzah is struck dead, in frustration and disappointment "The Lord burst out against Uzzah". In other words- God's character remained the same. Wherever sin is- God is against it. David liked it when God's justice worked in his favor- against his enemies. He doesn't like it so much when it inconveniently slows his progress down.

He says in Frustration "UGH, How am I ever supposed to get the Ark back where it belongs?"

And then he sends the Ark away, yet again to sit in someones house.

Notice- it goes to Gath. Remember who was from Gath? Goliath...David's first victory. When he was so zealous for the name of the Lord...he cared so deeply how God's name was represented- that he was willing to battle a giant who blasphemed God.

But now- David is frustrated.

And thats the second step of this cycle.

## **2) Frustration (with God and yourself)**

We don't really know here if he's frustrated mainly at God or at himself. But if you have ever been in a position where your sin has cost you something...has upset your life... has gotten you off track...has caused you and others that you love deep pain...

...well, you know that your frustration tends to go back and forth. "God, why do you have to be this serious about sin" and yourself "UGH, I'm so stupid. Why did I do this?"

Often- like David, this frustration leads to just wanting to quit.

I'm never going to be able to do this. I can't. I can't be a Xian, I can't possibly be what God wants me to be. He's too demanding...I'm done.

I get it. I've been there myself.

While that frustration is real..and understandable...it doesn't really help you make any progress in your life...so lets see what does.

## **2 Samuel 6:11-12**

**The ark of the Lord remained in his house three months, and the Lord blessed Obed-edom and his whole family.**

**12 It was reported to King David, "The Lord has blessed Obed-edom's family and all that belongs to him because of the ark of God." So David went and had the ark of God brought up from Obed-edom's house to the city of David with rejoicing.**

After 3 months- of the Ark staying at Obed-edom's house- news comes to David that God has blessed Obed-Edom. And notice that David doesn't get jealous here. He doesn't keep complain "Oh- I try and do something good for the Ark...and a guy dies... but you bless Obed-Edom!" No.

When he is reminded again that the presence of God is not a burden, but a blessing- he repents. The kindness of God toward Obed-Edom reminds him that God is not just out to get people- that he really wants to bless Israel. So David where before he had quit in frustration...now takes back up his mission to bring the Ark home.

## **3) Repentance (in response to God's kindness)**

In Paul's letter to the Romans, in chapter 2 he writes that it is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. Its not the threat of God. Its not the frustration at our sin. Its only when we see God's kindness, that we repent.

To repent just means to turn around and go a different way. Its what the prodigal son did when he was in the pigsty and finally realizes his Father wasn't some oppressor trying to keep him from the good life- he went back to his Father to serve him because he realized that his Father was good and kind.

And when he got home...his father welcomed him into a party...he didn't shame him.

“Only the penitent man shall pass.”

What Indiana Jones realized in that temple headed for the Grail- was that to approach God, you had to come humbly. Penitent. Repentant. Aware of your sin...and aware of God's holiness. See, David's bitterness toward God...or even just a feeling of guilt... would not have allowed him to turn around and move toward God. Its only when he got done being frustrated with himself and God...that he could truly see God's kindness and say YES to his calling.

When Indiana Jones goes into the first test in the temple, he sees dead bodies. Just like David saw the dead body of Uzzah- and it scared him. It frustrated him.

And it represents our biggest problem. We know we need to approach God. We know we need to go to him...but how will it turn out different this time? How will I not just be another Nazi soldier or another Uzzah?

The answer- we have to see Gods kindness through another dead body.

Jesus on a cross. Jesus is God himself. In the flesh. And on the cross Jesus is dying not for his sin...he was never defiled by sin. Instead, he's taking the punishment we deserve.

But that's not all. The scripture says that Jesus gives us his righteousness. This is the gospel. The good news. The blessing that God is offering to you.

Though you are defiled by sin and deserve to be separated from God, Jesus died in your place.

And now- if you see his kindness...come humbly repenting- turning from your sin toward him.. he counts your faith in him as righteousness.

So he's not asking you to make up for it. He's not saying “You owe me!” Instead- he is gifting you righteousness..he has offering you a seat at his family table...if you see his kindness in Jesus and humbly kneel to him.

Forgiveness. Restoration. Everlasting Blessing are yours in Jesus Christ. The very presence of God- moves right into your life...like the Ark into Obed-Edom's house.

You get from Jesus the freedom of knowing your sin does not count against you, and you get the presence of God's Holy Spirit to guide your life and lead you into the way Jesus lives.

It is THAT kindness...that I hope today leads you out of your frustration and into humble repentance.

Lets keep going.



## **2 Samuel 6:13-17**

**13** When those carrying the ark of the Lord advanced six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened calf. **14** David was dancing with all his might before the Lord wearing a linen ephod. **15** He and the whole house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of the ram's horn. **16** As the ark of the Lord was entering the city of David, Saul's daughter Michal looked down from the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart.

**17** They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent David had pitched for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and fellowship offerings in the Lord's presence.

Very simply- in response to God's kindness...after David repents...he worships. And he does this in 2 ways. Sacrifice and Expression.

First- David, according to the law...remember the one David had at first ignored when bringing the ark back that cost Uzzah his life...now according to the law...he sacrifices an ox and a calf. and then offers two kinds of offerings once the Ark is back inside the tent.

Then- He expresses his joy. He cuts Footloose. He absolutely breaks something off for the Lord.

And what both of these forms of worship have in common- David stops thinking about himself...like he was doing when he was frustrated...and is responding to the LORD.

## **4) Worship (Joyful Sacrifice & Expression to God)**

This is still worship for us today.

First, worship involves sacrifice in your whole life. You consider that nothing belongs to you...it is all God's. You have been bought with a price and now you joyfully serve God...on mission with him to help the whole world worship. Just like David did with Israel. He was a party starter.

## **Romans 12:1**

**Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.**

In response to the mercy of God- every thing you do is submitted as a sacrifice to God. This is true worship. How do you look at your money? How do you look at your job? Your relationships? Your time?

The truth is- if you have seen the kindness of God to forgive your sin and bring you home to him...then there is nothing that you aren't willing to give in order to honor him. Living with God is nothing held back.

When we baptize- "Go wherever he calls you to go, do whatever he calls you to do"... and its joyful. Its not begrudging. God loves a cheerful giver...and boy is David one in this passage. David later says "I will not offer to God that which costs me nothing!"

#### **back to 4)**

And worship is also joyful expression.

I know we all have different styles and personalities. I'm just saying- sometimes the reason you don't express yourself in worship is because you are thinking about how you'll come off...instead of responding to what you know Jesus has done for you. And for that...you should repent. Not everyone has to worship the same...I'm just asking you...if you have seen the Kindness of God to rescue you from sin and death- let that drive your expressive worship instead of fear that you'll sing off key or that someone will think you're dumb for raising your hands.

#### **2 Samuel 6:19**

**Then he distributed a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake to each one in the entire Israelite community, both men and women. Then all the people went home.**

Notice how now David overflows. Generously giving to those around. Both for their provision (food) but also a Raisin Cake. Aphrodisiac. Be fruitful and multiply.

#### **5) Overflow (Others benefit from your life)**

Is this true about you. It shouldn't just be inside of the church that you worship. As you live a life of sacrifice in response to the Kindness of God- you'll remember what Jesus said "Its better to give than to receive."

And that's natural. Its not forced. Its like creating life. You don't go into it concentrating on creating life- you go into it with deep love and commitment to your spouse...and with a raisin cake- and the fruit of that love and commitment is new life.

Likewise- as you love and commit to the Lord- the fruit of the spirit comes off of your life for others. Love joy...etc.

And...you end up telling people about Jesus, and inviting them to join you. You have spiritual children as you pour into others lives.

Lets finish it out.

## 2 Samuel 6:20-23

**20 When David returned home to bless his household, Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him. "How the king of Israel honored himself today!" she said. "He exposed himself today in the sight of the slave girls of his subjects like a vulgar person would expose himself."**

**21 David replied to Michal, "It was before the Lord who chose me over your father and his whole family to appoint me ruler over the Lord's people Israel. I will dance before the Lord, 22 and I will dishonor myself and humble myself even more. However, by the slave girls you spoke about, I will be honored." 23 And Saul's daughter Michal had no child to the day of her death.**

Just when David is on this spiritual High- his wife Michal resists him.

Now- A couple of things here. You remember from last Week, David sinned against Michal. So this is not a David is good and Michal is bad thing.

Michal is Saul's daughter. She represents the house of Saul. You see that as in this text she is directly identified as that.

Here's what's going on.

Saul, who had resisted David all his life...is sort of BACK...in the form of Michal his daughter. Michal knows Kingship through Saul. Who was not a good king. He was out for himself, a jealous, angry, abusive and manipulative King.

Saul was always projecting his royalty- demanding people honor his authority. So when Michal sees David stripping down to a linen undergarment and dancing around in joy- She resists him. Scolds him. And says "THIS IS NOT HOW A KING BEHAVES!"

But David doesn't fall back to frustration. He continues to worship and humble himself.

He says, "While You and Saul can't see it, the lowly slave girls can. They can see the beauty in humility. The beauty in kneeling before God. The beauty of forgetting about myself- so that I can worship and honor God."

And right here at the end. It doesn't say that God stops Michal from having kids. It just says she doesn't. The point here, is that Michal resists David...and in so doing she builds a wall between them. So they don't do what all the raisin cake people probably went home and did. They were not fruitful and multiply.

It literally happened, but its also a metaphor. Those who resist God in frustration, don't have the overflow and fruit of repentance in their lives. But those who do- well, The penitent ones shall dance! And pass out baskets of raisin cakes!

## **6) Resistance (You become a Target)**

See- When you follow Jesus- when you trust God with your life- when you worship him...you will experience resistance. You will become the target of spiritual forces. the enemy. the devil.

### **1 Peter 5:6-10**

**6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your cares on him, because he cares about you. 8 Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. 9 Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.**

**10 The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.**

### **Lords Supper**