

The Presence of God in Our Midst

2 Samuel 6

God is in our midst. It is an incredible truth! It is true for us as a church. It is equally true for each believer for Scripture teaches that God dwells within us in the presence of His Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17). It is a truth that should have bearing on everything we do - how we speak, think, act, serve, worship, etc. If we fail, however, to remember that the Holy God is present in our midst, we can so easily slide into living in a way that does not honor God. Today, as we look at another episode in the life of David, may we be warned how vital it is to remember that God is in our midst.

Opening Question: On a scale from 1 to 10 (ten being the highest), where would you rate yourself in terms of how consistently thoughts of God are in your mind as you go through your day?

For background to our passage read Exodus 37:1-5

1. What does this teach us about the ark? How was it to be carried?

Read 2 Samuel 6:1-11

2. What are your first reactions to what happens in this passage?
3. What questions does it raise in your mind?
4. Does it seem harsh to you that God struck Uzzah for touching the ark? Why or why not?

Steve said:

We need to think carefully about how to apply a passage like 2 Samuel 6. If you aren't clued in to how obvious it was that the Levites should have carried the ark by hand, you might think that this passage suggests that if you somehow violate the smallest principle found in the Bible He'll probably strike you dead. I don't at all think that that's the take-away point here. I think that this passage warns us against drifting to the place where we are blind to things that should be obvious to us. Uzzah serves as a warning to us about the need to remember how we should revere and honor the presence of God in our lives and in our midst as a church.

There could be numerous valid ways to apply a passage like this. When I think about applying this passage, I am drawn to think about the implications of the presence of God in our midst through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Just as Uzzah (and everybody else in his day) drifted to the

place where he became careless with the ark of the covenant, we can become careless in how we think about the presence of God in our midst. We can lose sight of some basic, foundational truths that should be obvious.

5. What are some ways that we can "become careless in how we think about the presence of God in our midst?"
6. How does it tend to affect us when we lose sight of the basic, foundational truth that God dwells within us in the presence of His Spirit?
7. What does it look like to revere and honor the presence of God in our lives? in our church?

Read 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:18-20; 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10

8. What do these passages say about our identity and how that identity should affect how we live?

Steve said:

Ultimately ***God wants us to love the fact that He is in our midst – individually and corporately.*** The conviction that God is in our midst through the Holy Spirit should fuel our desire to honor Him in everything we do. And sometimes our joy will overflow into celebration. Sometimes we will be so full-to-overflowing that we lose ourselves in praise. That's what happened to David when he finally brought the ark into Jerusalem.

9. How consistently do you live with the truth - God is in our midst - in your daily life?
10. What kinds of things could you do that would help you to live more consistently with this truth in your daily life?
11. How do you think it might affect you if you more regularly lived with this truth in your thoughts?