

A person wearing a white hooded robe is kneeling in prayer on a grassy field. They are holding a long, thin staff or spear. To their right, a small white dog is sitting. The scene is set under a large, leafy tree on the left, with a bright sunset or sunrise in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The sky is filled with soft, hazy light, and the trees in the distance are silhouetted against the bright light.

A Heart Like God's

Part 22: True Reverence

Can you recall a time that
you were shamed for
expressing jubilation?

1 Now David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 Samuel 6:1–9

NASB95

2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him to Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God which is called by the Name, the very name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned *above* the cherubim.

3 They placed the ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were leading the new cart.

4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark.

5 Meanwhile, David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the LORD with all kinds of *instruments made of fir wood*, and with lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets and cymbals.

6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset *it*.

7 And the anger of the LORD burned against Uzzah, and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

8 David became angry because of the LORD'S outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.

9 So David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, “How can the ark of the LORD come to me?”

The sin of irreverence is taking God's Presence for granted and treating it as something common.

God may only be
approached with extreme
reverence but reverence

without heart is
pretentious, dead religion,
which God loathes.

10 And David was unwilling to
move the ark of the LORD into the
city of David with him; but David
took it aside to the house of *Obed-
edom the Gittite*.

2 Samuel 6:10–12

NASB95

11 Thus the ark of the LORD
remained in the house of Obed-
edom the Gittite three months, and
*the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all
his household.*

The Presence of God has
always been meant for
households. A house that
desires and honors God's
Presence is postured for
His blessing.

How do you intentionally
host God's Presence in
your household?

1 Now *David* built houses for himself in the city of David; and he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it.

1 Chronicles 15:1–3

NASB95

2 Then David said, “*No one is to carry the ark of God but the Levites;* for the LORD chose them to carry the ark of God and to minister to Him forever.”

3 And David assembled all Israel at
Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the
LORD *to its place which he had
prepared for it.*

12 and said to them, “You are the heads of the fathers’ *households* of the Levites; consecrate yourselves both you and your relatives, that you may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel *to the place that I have prepared for it.*”

1 Chronicles 15:12–15

NASB95

13 “Because *you* did not *carry it* at the first,
the LORD our God made an outburst on
us, for *we did not seek Him according to the
ordinance.*”

14 So the priests and the Levites
consecrated themselves to bring up the ark
of the LORD God of Israel.

15 The sons of the Levites carried the ark of God *on their shoulders* with the poles thereon, *as Moses had commanded* according to the word of the LORD.

Our reverence for God,
including our worship, is not
about what our preferences
are — it's about what His are.

True reverence is laying aside
our culture, our personality,
our opinions and our
preconceived ideas about
worship, and abandoning
ourselves to what pleases the
Lord.

David already knew in His Heart
what pleases the Lord, because
He was a man who carried
God's own Heart!

As do we.

14 And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.

2 Samuel 6:14–15

NASB95

15 So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.

There is a time and
occasion for every emotion
to find expression in
worship.

It is damaging to the soul
to withhold the expression
of grief.

It is equally damaging to
withhold the expression of
joy.

If God feels it, we are
meant to feel it, too.

And if we feel it, we are
meant to express it.

16 Then it happened *as* the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that *Michal the daughter of Saul* looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and *she despised him in her heart...*

2 Samuel 6:14–22

NASB95

20 But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said,

“How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants’ maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!”

21 So David said to Michal, “*It was before the LORD*, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; *therefore I will celebrate before the LORD.*”

22 *“I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”*

The Spirit of Michal

seeks to stifle our joyful, child-like expression of praise and love to God and replace it with more "adult-like," controlled behavior.