

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 4

1 Chronicles 13:1-10 ESV

Does God Always Accept Our Good Intentions?

Sunday, March 1 at 8:00 & 10:45

Second Sunday in Lent – 2015

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Our current series is called: **God's Life-Changing Truth**. So far we have asked:

- ⇒ **Part 1: Why Is God's Holiness a Problem for Us?** He is holy and requires us to be holy in His sight, *but we are helpless of ourselves to meet His requirement!*
- ⇒ **Part 2: According to God's Standard, Is Anyone Good enough?** The answer is "no"; since we have all sinned, *we all stand in need of God's gift of goodness!*
- ⇒ **Part 3: What Is More Important: What We Think or What God Commanded?** We all know the right answer, but do we, *as God's forgiven children*, follow that answer? Whenever we do not, *let us repent!*

Today is **Part 4: Does God Accept Our Good Intentions?** It makes sense that He does, *but what does the Bible say?* Earlier we read about Peter's good intentions to prevent Jesus' death, *but Jesus called him "Satan!"* Now we turn our focus to Uzzah, the man whose *good intentions* moved him to *reach out toward the ark of God* to prevent it from falling to the ground. *Let's see how that worked out* as we go to [1 Chronicles 13:1-10](#):

1. **General Plan:** ¹ 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. //
 - a. Sometimes leaders are not able gain the support they need for a particular idea, *so they choose to go-it-alone by issuing an executive order*. David could have done that, *he was the king*, but he chose to proceed wisely by consulting "every leader." He may have said to each leader: What is your opinion? Do you think this would be pleasing to "the LORD our God"?
 - b. So the LORD made those leaders like-minded; the idea seemed "right in the eyes of all the people," so they agreed to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. May we, as a congregation, also discuss, decide, and unite, *but only in agreement with the LORD!*
2. **Details and Celebration:**
 - a. 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. // So David assembled the whole nation – from the *southern border* to the *northern border*; no one was left out. Then they went to where the ark was in Kiriath-jearim, about 9 miles to the north of Jerusalem.

- b. **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.** // Wow, → their intentions were good, → there was unity between God and man, and → they were celebrating “*with all their might.*” **But** there was one problem: “*they carried the ark of God on a new cart,*” even though the LORD had given this instruction: ¹² “*You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet...*” ¹³ *You shall make poles of acacia wood...* ¹⁴ *And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them.*” (Exodus 25 ESV)

3. **Good Intention, Bad Result:**

- a. **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.** // Uzzah’s intentions were good – *to prevent the ark from sliding off of the cart.* But the Bible says in Numbers 4: ⁵ **When the camp is to set out,**

Aaron and his sons shall go in and take down the veil of the screen and cover the ark of the testimony with it. ⁶ Then they shall put on it a covering of goatskin and spread on top of that a cloth all of blue, and shall put in its poles.... ¹⁵ And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary... the sons of Kohath shall come to carry these, but they must not touch the holy things, lest they die.” (ESV)

- b. So when Uzzah, *with very good intentions,* “put out his hand to take hold of the ark,” the Bible records: 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.** // So God wants us to know that *He does NOT always accept our good intentions*; instead, He wants us to be sure that our intentions are always in agreement *with His Holy Word!*

Conclusion: So Uzzah died and the Bible records that “*David was afraid of God that day...*” (1Ch 13:12 ESV) So where do we go from here? Since God’s love moved Him to send His Son to rescue us from our sins:

- ⇒ Let us praise Him forever,
- ⇒ Study the Bible to know God’s will, and
- ⇒ Respond to what it says in a very serious way!

And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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