

“DANCE FOR GOD”

Pastor Mike Corwin

TEXT: 2 SAMUEL 6:1-19

GOD’S WORD: PSALM 24

I - KORWYN’S DANCE:

I have a great granddaughter who loves to dance. We first noticed it when the commercial for Kroger’s came on with people dancing to a song about going low-low-low. She would stop what she was doing and stand mesmerized in front of the TV and shake her booty with the animated figures on the screen. This graduated to her Disney movies like Moana and the Minion movie. She’s even started to sing along in various places. Her most recent dance instructor is a little chubby baby dancing in the kitchen in an advertisement for Huggies diapers. He dances, so she dances.

This is all rather entertaining except for one thing...she has grown to like to dance with as few garments on as possible. She has taken to stripping off her clothes and dancing in her diaper as well. There have even been times when she has stripped off her diaper and danced in the nude and then run away from you when you try to grab her to put it back on! She has no inhibitions as to who else is in the house, or who is watching her dance. She does it because she likes the images, the music, and the dancing she sees on the screen. She’s in her own little world.

If you can envision this then you can better understand the text for today.

II – TEXT LEAD IN:

When last I preached to you from 2 Samuel, David had learned that King Saul and his son Jonathan, David’s close friend, had been slain in battle and we looked at the passage where David lamented their deaths.

Then we read about some unrest and political infighting over who the next king would be. David is eventually put in to that position as God had proclaimed should be the case through the prophet Samuel who had since died.

Before any of this happened though, king Saul had taken the Ark of the Covenant, the representation of God among the Israelites dating back to the time of Moses and their journey through the wilderness, into battle against the Philistines. If you look at 1 Samuel, chapters 4-6 you find that the Ark was

captured by the Philistines. In today's text we read about David bringing it back to the Holy city of Jerusalem.

III – TEXT:

2 Samuel 6:1-19 (NLT)

Moving the Ark to Jerusalem

¹Then David again gathered all the elite troops in Israel, 30,000 in all. ²He led them to Baalah of Judah to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. ³They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab's house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons, were guiding the cart ⁴that carried the Ark of God. Ahio walked in front of the Ark. ⁵David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals. ⁶But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. ⁷Then the LORD's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God. ⁸David was angry because the LORD's anger had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means "to burst out against Uzzah"), as it is still called today. ⁹David was now afraid of the LORD, and he asked, "How can I ever bring the Ark of the LORD back into my care?" ¹⁰So David decided not to move the Ark of the LORD into the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath. ¹¹The Ark of the LORD remained there in Obed-edom's house for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and his entire household. ¹²Then King David was told, "The LORD has blessed Obed-edom's household and everything he has because of the Ark of God." So David went there and brought the Ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with a great celebration. ¹³After the men who were carrying the Ark of the LORD had gone six steps, David sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴And David danced before the LORD with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. ¹⁵So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the LORD with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns.

Michal's Contempt for David

¹⁶But as the Ark of the LORD entered the City of David, Michal, the daughter of Saul, looked down from her window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she was filled with contempt for him. ¹⁷They brought the Ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And David sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD. ¹⁸When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ¹⁹Then he gave to every Israelite man and woman in the crowd a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people returned to their homes.

The Ark was the center piece of furniture in the tabernacle. It contained the tablets with the 10 commandments on them. It is also believed to contain the staff that Aaron used, which had budded to

show his legitimacy as God's priest, a jar of the manna that God sent from heaven to feed the people in the wilderness, and the book of law. It was believed that when God spoke to Moses and his people he did it sitting on the Ark, which had a seat between two Cherubim angels on the top. This was the very representation of God among his people.

So when the Ark was lost in battle it did not bode well for Saul or the Israelites. The Philistine's took it home to their capital as bragging rights and put it in the temple of their god, Dagon. This did not set well with God who toppled the statue, face down before him and when they set it back up he did it again and the head and hands broke off this time. They moved it to another city and when the people developed tumors. They moved it to another city and the same thing happened. So the Philistines put it on a cart pulled by 2 cows and surrounded by gifts, and set it free where it went back to the Israelites. It ended up at the house of Abinadab's where it stayed for about 20 years.

After David became king he decided the Ark of God should reside in the Israel capitol of Jerusalem. So he sets out with 30,000 commandos to bring it back. They put it on a new cart and started down the hill from his house with his 2 sons guiding the cart with the Ark on it. David and the people with him were celebrating, singing songs and playing all kinds of instruments. As they got down the hill and down the road a ways the oxen pulling the cart stumbles and Uzzah reached out and touched the Ark and was struck dead for it right then and there. David was mad. How could God do this? The answer is that God is Holy beyond our comprehension and to reach out and touch the thing that represented his presence was as bad as being put in the temple of a false god. There had to be consequences. God could not be treated like an ordinary object or manhandled by his creation in any way.

The bigger quandary for David is how he could possibly ever get the Ark to Jerusalem! The short answer was that he couldn't, so they left the Ark there at the home of Obededom for a while. But David noticed how blessed Obededom was by its presence. He wanted to be blessed, the sacred city to be blessed, the whole of Israel to be blessed so he had to figure out how to get it to his city. So he sets out again. But this time he didn't take an army, he took worshippers. Those who brought the Ark back in the midst of celebration. A celebration marked by a procession with extravagant sacrifices, loud music of praise, and a king who stripped down to his underwear and danced without shame in front of the Ark as it returned to the city where it was placed in the tabernacle tent where it belonged.

David's wife saw no humor in this and took him to task for showing himself in his undergarments to the lowly people who served him. She considered him to be dishonored by his actions. This was no way for a king to act. David let her know that when it came to his God, his own image was not important in the slightest way, but the honoring and worshipping of God took the highest priority.

IV – CHURCH LESSONS:

From this story of David we need to take note of three important lessons the church needs to be aware of and get back to practicing today.

1. GOD IS HOLY! God is not supposed to be taken lightly. God is not supposed to play second fiddle to anything or anyone. You're not supposed to mock him or put him to the test. He is to be your #1 priority in life. God's presence, according to this scripture, will bless you and your household in many ways. The question is do you let God reside in your life? In your household? In your family? Or do you only seek his presence on Sunday? God is Holy and should be treated that way always and forever.
2. God deserves celebration. There is a time and a place to be quiet and think about God, but God also enjoys our noise. He enjoys when we strip off all our inhibitions and sing to him at the top of our lungs and dance for him – at least in our souls! He enjoys us when we strip out minds, our hearts, and our souls naked and there is nothing between them and him.
3. There will always be naysayers. There will always be people who think you are out of your mind, people who think your style of worship may be a little too up-tempo, too rambunctious or loud. You know...it's just not their style. TUFFFFFFFFF! We have to have the same attitude as David, when it comes to worshipping the Creator of the universe, the living and Almighty God, then our honor is nothing compared to his!

V – DANCE LIKE JESUS:

As I consider what Jesus did for me, for us, how can I act any other way. Didn't he dance without shame to honor his heavenly father? Didn't he dance without same to save you from your sins? Wasn't he arrested for no reason, beaten while blindfolded, stripped naked, and hung on a cross for all to see as he died and was belittled by the very religious people he came to save?

Not once did he defend himself, not once did he call down a legion of angels to save himself, not once did he protest what was happening to him. He didn't ask for a day off. He didn't skip the cross because he had something else to do. He didn't call in lawyers to save him or hire a public image firm to make sure he was seen in the correct light. He danced naked on a cross to fulfill the plans of his heavenly father to save his creation.

And three days later he walked out of his borrowed tomb so we could all dance too!

So the only question for today is...ARE YOU DANCING FOR GOD? Have you laid aside your inhibitions, your personal agenda, your comfort zone, and you are dancing with all your might for God as you go through life.

I challenge not only the preachers, musicians, and other worship leaders to step up their game for God through the Holy Spirit this year. I challenge each and every one of you to get in the dance too.

AMEN