

# When God Messes You Up

## Daystar – 3/26/06

### Introduction:

- A. This Wednesday night Kip Potter (a master story-teller) reminded me of this story.
- B. The Ark of the Covenant was an incredible wooden box made to exacting details.
  - 1. It served an important purpose in the Old Testament.
  - 2. In it were stored many important religious relics.
  - 3. With it came the PRESENCE OF GOD, JEHOVAH!
- C. The Philistine army stole the Ark of God.
  - 1. They placed it before their god, Dagon, as a trophy to him.
  - 2. The next morning when they awoke, they found Dagon prostrate before the Ark, with his head/hands cut off.
- D. In 1 Chronicles 13, David decides to return it to Jerusalem.
  - 1. Even moving this Ark carried specific instructions.
  - 2. David ran into trouble when he overlooked these directives:

*1 Chron 13:7-14 NIV*

*7 They moved the ark of God from Abinadab's house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. 8 David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets. 9 When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. 10 The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God. 11 Then David was angry*

*because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. 12 David was afraid of God that day and asked, "How can I ever bring the ark of God to me?" 13 He did not take the ark to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. 14 The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his household and everything he had.*

- E. This is one of the few times in the life of David that we see that he is unwilling to pay the price needed to find the presence of God.

### **I.Obed-Edom's Life was about to Change.**

*14 The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his household and everything he had (everything around him - Message).*

- A. Obed-Edom's family entered into the most intensive period of blessing they had ever known.

1. If this Ark of God had the ability to decapitate the enemy of God, what would it do for the friend of God?
2. It blessed Obed-Edom and everything around him.

- B. Now the Bible doesn't fill in all the specific details of this blessing, so we are left to wonder.

**First day** – OE comes out to mow his 5 acre farm → 500 acres!

- Goes to shed to get push-mower → Huge Barn!
- Goes into barn for mower → Huge John Deere tractor!
- Goes to run tractor → TEAM OF SERVANTS!

**Day Two** – OE walks outside to milk one cow and feed one goat →

- Herd of sheep & cattle with his BRAND on them!
- BUT THAT'S NOT ALL – EVERYONE AROUND HIM...

**Day Three** – Dog is cured of mange & fleas run away!

**Day Four** – Wife invents Formula 409 cleaner!

**Day Five** – Teenage son's acne clears up!

**Day Six** – Daughter gets scholarship to U. of Jerusalem!

*On & on & on....*

C. *“Pastor, are you making this up???”*

1. Darn right, I am!
2. Bible says Obed-Edom, his family, & everything around him was blessed.
3. Bible also says God is able to do more than I can ask or imagine, so I'm just letting my imagination run wild!

D. See that's the problem with many church people.

1. They don't expect the best.
2. Their idea of blessing is just getting by!
3. They want God to just help them to suffer through!

E. That's just not what God does!

1. He's not a God of “enough”; He's “more than enough!”
2. The reason you can't get a prayer answered is that you keep asking him to help you “get by.”
3. He's saying, “I don't do ‘get by!’”
4. **He's El Shaddai not El ‘get by!’**

**Fact #1: God's Presence Will Bless Your Life**

**Abundantly!**

- o *Wisdom, direction, favor, protection, blessing, healing*

**II. David Comes Back for the Ark.**

- A. David may be slow, but he ain't stupid!
1. "I gotta' have that favor in my life!"
  2. I wasn't the first person to live a life of blessing, but when I found out it could be had, I went for it!!!
- B. I can imagine Obed-Edom saying, "You can't be serious!"
1. The whole family is upset.
  2. Dog's got to go back to scratching fleas, daughter to community college, son loses girlfriend...
- C. But here's what most people overlook about this story...
1. Everyone just assumes that Obed-Edom bid them farewell and went about his business.
  2. But do you know where we next find Obed-Edom???
- He's in Jerusalem!
- D. Obed-Edom loaded up the entire family (62) and left Kidon to follow the presence of God.
1. *"You might take God's presence from this place, but I'm coming with you...btw, do you know where I can find a 62-room duplex?"*
  2. This is where most people will never go.
  3. They love their home, family, religion, tradition more than the presence of God!!!
- E. But Obed-Edom had TASTED of the presence of God!!!
1. David: "Obed-Edom, what are you doing? Where will you live? What will you do? How will you find work?"
  2. Obed: "I don't know. All I know is that the PRESENCE OF GOD HAS MESSED ME UP!!!!"

## **Fact #2: The Presence of God Will Mess You Up!**

- Your old ways won't matter anymore.
- What others think of you will fade into obscurity.
- Old plans will no longer matter.
- All that matters is walking in His Presence!

### **III. Obed-Edom is Messed Up!**

A. Next thing we see, O.E. shows up everywhere.

1. Ends up in the choir – probably can't sing a lick.
2. Next he's playing the harp – joyful noise.
3. Guarding the ark at night – can't get enough.
4. Works up to praise team.

B. Sermon illustration (Josh Simmons): *"We need someone to sing in our choir."*

Josh jumps up, "Oo, me, me!" Youth ministry, "Me." Clean toilets, mow grass, Care ministry, Master's Hands..."

As he continues to volunteer for everything, I ask, "May what's wrong with you?" Answer: "I'M MESSED UP!"

C. This is how Obed-Edom was.

1. Anything just to be near the presence of God!
2. He had tasted of the presence of God and would never be the same!
3. He was totally messed up!

## **Fact #3: The Presence of God Will Turn You Into A Servant.**

- After Obed-Edom volunteers for every job near the Ark, he is asked to perform one perfect for his commitment.
- In 1 Chr. 26 Obed-Edom is assigned to guard the South Gate of the temple – most important b/c housed treasures of the temple

D. Is it any wonder how well he performed?

1. Years later when the temple of God is overtaken by the enemy, Obed-Edom is taken hostage.
2. Others fled the invasion, but Obed-Edom served to the end.

E. Obed-Edom was too messed up to give up!

### **Conclusion:**

A. Maybe you think you're too busy to serve God's church.

1. You just need to come in and soak it in.
2. That can be done up to a point.

B. After a while of sitting and soaking...you'll sour!

1. Jesus: "*Freely you have received...freely give.*"
2. This is the healthiest way for you to live.

C. Your spiritual well-being depends on giving as you receive.

1. You are meant to be a river, not a reservoir.
2. Invest your life in service to the King and watch Him bless you immensely!