

Sermon Discussion Guide January 15, 2012



1. Last week Pastor Brown shared three ways that we can begin to seek God's Presence. Have you put any of them into practice?

*Take Time Away From Camp
Seek God's Ways and Not Just His Deeds
Always Hunger for More*

2. Read 2 Samuel 6:1-23. Why was David so interested in this box called the Ark of the Covenant? See Exodus 25:22.

3. The Presence of God Comes with Obedience

- a. How was David being disobedient when he first attempted to bring the ark to Jerusalem? See Exodus 37:5, Deuteronomy 10:8 and 1 Chronicles 15:12-15.
- b. The core of David's mistake is that he planned before he prayed. Is the church ever guilty of doing this? Consider these quotes:

...serving God based on the resources of people—is why the prayer life of the consumer based church is stalled in crisis mode. They believe in prayer, but treat it as a bail bonding service. Only when people don't come through with a solution do they turn to God. They pray primarily when they are backed into a corner, and then they expect God to perform. But with money in the bank, a good location and a clever strategy, they don't really need him otherwise.

Terry Teykl in Presence Based Church.

Church Board meetings that do not include times of prayer and waiting on God for his direction are a disgrace and a blight to God's work. How could we be wiser than God the Holy Spirit? Think of the church decisions, both in personnel and finances, that are made without even ten minutes of serious prayer as to what the Holy Spirit might say?

Jim Cymbala Fresh Power

4. The Presence of God Comes with Reverence

- a. How was Uzzah being irreverent when he reached out to touch the ark? Read 2 Samuel 6:6-7, Numbers 4:15 and 1 Samuel 6:19-7:1.
- b. The core of Uzzah's mistake is that he took the presence of God lightly. A lack of reverence will dispel the presence of God rather than attract it. Is the church ever guilty of doing this? Consider this quote:

Here's the hard truth—in many churches today, the Presence of God is absent. The people show up to fill a seat and take advantage of programs tailored to their needs that are wholesome yet spiritually neutered. They never experience the Presence of God, and in fact they haven't experienced it in so long, if ever, that they don't even know it's missing. If they did, they might not care. The presence of God is not necessarily welcome or essential for this kind of institution to operate.

Terry Teykl in Presence Based Church.

5. The Presence of God Comes with Passion

- a. How did David display his passion when he moved the ark the second time? See 2 Samuel 6:13-15.
- b. How can we have reverence and passion at the same time?
- c. How did Michal, David's wife respond to David's passion? 2 Samuel 6:16, 20-22
- d. What happens when we, like Michal, become critical of how another chooses to express their passion towards God? 2 Samuel 6:23