

1 Chronicles 15:13

For because you did not do it the first time, the LORD our God broke out against us, because we did not consult Him about the proper order."

"We tried it before and it didn't work."

How many times have you heard that before, not at work or school, but in the church? You feel the Lord is calling you to do something in the church, and you bring it to the elders or even the pastor and they say that dreaded saying, *"We tried it before and it didn't work."*

But look at today's verse, where King David; not just anyone mind you, but once again, King David, the sweet Psalmist, the man after God's own heart, has this awesome thing that he wants to do, and that's to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem. So he attempts to do it, and while he does he fails. Why? Because he did not seek the Lord and His direction on how to do it.

† **2 Samuel 6:6-7** *And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.*

It's not that God did not want the Ark brought back to Jerusalem, but it was how it was to be brought back. If you read the account of how King David was bringing the Ark to Jerusalem, you would think that it was right and cool and maybe even something we would do today.

† **2 Samuel 6:3-5** *So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.*

Putting the Ark on a brand new cart, being pulled by oxen, and even more convincing was that they *"played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals."*

So think of it like it was a brand new stretch limo, surrounded by police driving motorcycles as an escort, and the hottest worship team playing before the Lord as they ushered the Ark into Jerusalem. But some of this was ok, whereas, other parts of it were downright disobedient to the Lord's direction, and the priest should had known this, because God made it very clear that two

rings shall be on each side of the Ark, so that two poles would be placed in them so that the ark would be carried, not transported on a cart.

† **Exodus 25:14** *You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.*

And it was not to be carried by just anyone, but by the Levites.

† **1 Chronicles 15:15 (KJV)** *And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.*

So there was not a problem with King David and Israel playing music and dancing before the Lord as the Ark was brought in, the problem was how they were transporting it. Because, even though in man's eyes, it seemed good to put it on a new cart, it wasn't the way God told them to transport the Ark.

So it is in the church, programs, ministries and even bible studies are attempted, but when it's done in man's strength and not God's direction, it falls flat on its face.

So even though "We tried it before and it didn't work." Doesn't mean that God can't do it now, because God will allow it to happen if it is His will and if you seek His direction on how to do it, and not man's.

† **1 Chronicles 15:25-28** *So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy. And so it was, when God helped the Levites who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bulls and seven rams. David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn, with trumpets and with cymbals, making music with stringed instruments and harps.*