

## 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.*

In today's devotional verse, this is talking about when King David wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. If you go back to chapter 13, you would read of how they tried to transport the Ark by putting it on a new cart, and it says, *And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. 1 Chronicles 13:9-10*

The reason this happened was, even though King David was right in his decision to move the Ark, he was not right in the way he chose to do it. And if you read the end of chapter 13, it took King David three months to figure out the right way, and probably to get enough nerve to try it again.

† **1 Chronicles 13:14** *The ark of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that he had.*

And what was the right way?

† **1 Chronicles 15:2** *Then David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them to carry the ark of God and to minister before Him forever."*

The Ark was not to be put on a cart, old or new, but instead men were to carry the Ark, and it wasn't just any men who should carry the Ark, but the Levites only. Also the oxen were actually used for sacrificing, therefore they should not have been the ones to carry, or even move the Ark.

Yet, do we do the same thing sometimes? Sure, we may know that the Lord is telling us to do something or calling us into a ministry. But sometimes we take just that one thing that the Lord has told us, and run with it.

Say the Lord calls you into the worship ministry, but you have no money, so you get a loan to buy music equipment and jump right into it. But after a short while, that ministry fails, because even though the Lord has called you into the music ministry, He wants to provide for that ministry too. I like how pastor Chuck Smith used to put it. "Where God guides, God provides" So if you are getting a loan to start your worship or any ministry, it's now no longer the Lord's.

Instead, you have grabbed it from Him and ran with it. And there is no glory in that for the Lord in that.

I also like what King David said about this as well.

† **2 Samuel 24:24** *Then the king said to Araunah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.* (underlined for emphasis)

Getting a loan to do or start a ministry is not being wise in your ministry, because once again, God will provide, and if you are getting a loan, you are throwing part of God's money away by paying interest to a bank. And that's no way to start a ministry.

One side note is that I know churches do get loans to purchase land and or build a church, but AFTER the ministry is started and has grown, and they have prayed about it, I am not referring to that.

But whatever you do for the Lord, as you sense His calling, do it with prayer, seeking not just God telling you what to do, but how to do it. After all, wasn't that what King Solomon did? God called him to be king in place of his father King David. Yet Solomon did not just run with it like so many other kings who had after him, and they failed miserably. No, he knew God called him and asked God for wisdom on how do to what he was called to do. So should we. And just as it was pleasing to God that Solomon asked this, I think the Lord would be pleased when we seek His will as well.

† **1 Kings 3:9-10** *Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.* (underlined for emphasis)