David’s New Cart

Intro: In 1 Sam. chapters 4 and 5, the Philistines go to war against Israel. Things were going bad for the Israelites, so they brought the Ark of the Covenant to the war thinking that it would save them from the hands of the Philistines. However, the Philistines defeated the Israelites and took the ark.

I. The Ark In The Hands Of The Philistines.
   A. 1 Sam. 5:1-12  
      When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon’s house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day. But the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them of Ashdod, and he destroyed them, and smote them with emerods, even Ashdod and the coasts thereof. And when the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, The ark of the God of Israel shall not abide with us: for his hand is sore upon us, and upon Dagon our god. They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither. 
         What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel to us, to slay us and our people? For there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city: the hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that died not were smitten with the emerods: and the cry of the city went up to heaven."
   B. Sending the ark away.
      1. They made a new cart to take away the Ark.
      2. They did not send it away empty. They sent jewels of gold with the Ark.
      3. They allowed the Ark to go by the way of Beth-sehmesh.
         a. They looked into the ark thus, invoking the anger of God, so 50,070 men died.
         b. They called the men of Kiriath-jearim to get the ark.
         c. It remained in Kiriath-jearim for twenty years in the house of Abinadab.

II. David Bringing The Ark To Jerusalem.
   A. David determined to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem.
   B. The transportation of the Ark.
      1. God had given specific instructions as to moving the ark.
         a. Num. 4: 7: 10:
         b. It was to be carried upon the shoulders of the men of the tribe of Levi, of the family of Kohath.
      2. David’s way of transporting the Ark.
         a. David followed the blueprint of the Philistines in building a new cart to carry the ark. cf. 1 Sam. 6:7  
         b. This worked seemingly well for a time:
            (1) When they reached the threshing-floor of Nacon the oxen stumbled.
(2) Uzzah put his hand forth to steady the Ark and God struck him dead.
(3) 2 Sam. 6:6-7 “And when they came to Nachon’s threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. 7 And the anger of the L ORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.”

C. The Ark was then left in the house of Obed-edom for three months.

III. SOME LESSONS WE LEARN FROM DAVID’S NEW CART.

A. David had a lack of respect for divine authority.
1. Christ now has all authority in religious matters.
   a. Mat. 28:18 “18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
   b. Eph. 1:21-23 “21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
   c. Col. 1:18 “18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”
2. We must respect and submit to the authority of Christ at all times.
   a. Not be as Naaman in 2 Kin. 5:11, “Behold I thought”; “11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”
   b. Mat. 15:8-9 “8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
   c. Instead we must speak God’s word; 1 Pet. 4:11 “11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

B. David wanted to improve on the ways of God.
1. This comes as a result of not having the proper respect for divine authority.
2. Isa. 55:8-9 “8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the L ORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”
3. Denominationalism has adopted this attitude in what they do.
   a. In making and following creed books.
      (1) It is an attempt to improve on the Bible (God’s way.)
      (2) 2 Tim. 3:16-17 “16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”
   b. In advocating the church of your choice.
      (1) Christ established but one church.
      (2) Mat. 16:18 “18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
      (3) Eph. 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”
   c. Trying to improve the worship that God has authorized.

C. David thought the how made no difference as long as the job was completed.
1. This also boils down to lack of respect for Divine authority.
2. When God tells us how to do something we must do it only as God has authorized.
   a. Noah was instructed to build the ark of gopher wood, thus to use anything different (not authorized) would have caused Noah to be lost.
   b. In the area of music in the church, God gave us the how to make music.
      (1) He told us to sing.
         (a) Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;"
         (b) Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."
         (c) 1 Cor. 14:15 "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."
      (2) Any other way is sinful.

3. The end never justifies the means.
   a. God told us to baptize; yet we cannot take a gun and force people to go down into the water.
   b. God told us to win souls; yet he tells us how to do it.
      (1) Not by gimmicks, entertainment, etc.
      (2) By preaching the Gospel to them. Rom. 1:15-16 "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

D. David was easily influenced by others.
1. When the Philistines decided to move the ark, they built a new cart.
   a. David patterned his after theirs.
   b. David was influenced by the Philistines.
2. Today we are influenced by others.
   a. 1 Cor. 15:33 "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."
   b. The introduction of the instrument of music in worship was because of the influence of the world.
   c. There have been numerous innovations into our worship, organization, and work of the church that originated within denominationalism.
3. We are to influence others by our lives.
   a. Mat. 5:13-16 "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
   b. 2 Cor. 3:2 "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:"
   c. 1 Tim. 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Conclusion: Let us learn by the mistakes of others; Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Let us never build a Philistine cart.