My Best!!

1 Samuel 6:13-16

Sermon Outline

A. A Call to Worship (vs. 13; Exodus 35:20-37:7):

1. They raised their eyes – When the people saw the ark, they looked straight at it with great anticipation. Their attention was totally fixed on the ark with no intent of going at anything else.

   a) The Philistines believed in sympathetic magic, that is, the removal of evil or disaster via models of their sores (6:4–5). By sending away the golden models, they hoped to remove the disease from their land. These expensive articles also served as a sacrifice, intended to placate the angry God of Israel.[1]

2. They raised their eyes – They raised up and looked at the ark as if this is something they were looking to see for a long time. Their hard work was completely lost as they viewed the ark.

3. Saw – The Levites of Beth-shemesh distinctively knew what they clearly saw was the ark.

4. Saw – When God is to be worship nothing else mattered.

5. Rejoice – The Levites of Beth-shemesh spontaneously responded at the sight of the ark with festive jubilation and gladness. Their jubilation was continuous as if they had no plans to stop (Deut. 28:47).

   a) The Israelites were so overjoyed to see the ark after seven months (6:1).[2]

6. Rejoice – There was spontaneous extreme happiness in the fields when the Levites saw the ark.

7. Rejoice – When our relationship with God is genuine worship is inspiring.

8. Rejoice – Music in worship should be gas on a fire.

9. See – Their gladness was immediate because these men comprehensively knew what the ark looks like.

B. Total Surrender (vs. 14-15):

1. The cart came into the field – The ark arriving at the field was the completion of its journey back to God’s people.
a) Since Beth-shemesh was a Levitical city (Josh. 21:16), there would have been priests available to officiate at the sacrifice.\[3\]
b) The termination of the trip at Beth-shemesh is just as much a revelation of the hand of God as the journey itself, because it was one of the towns of Judah assigned to the priests at the time of the conquest (Jos. 21:13-16; NIV Study Bible).

2. The cart came into the field – The purpose of the journey of the ark was to come to Beth-shemesh the home of the dependents of Aaron.

3. The cart came into the field – The Lord came to His people because it always starts with Him.

4. The cart came into the field – The Lord desires a relationship with His people.

5. The cart came into the field – The Lord does not need directions to get to church.

6. Stood - The oxen stood upright as if they would forever be immovable.

7. A large stone – Their focus to worship God centered its attention on a very large stone protruding out of the ground.

8. Offered the cows – The Levites immediate reaction was to also follow the Levitical law and worship God.

9. Offered the cows – To offer the cows to God is a lot of work and preparation. This is the difference of the offering of Cain and Abel.

10. Offered the cows – They knew what to do and did it without God having to tell them anything.

11. Burnt offering – A burnt offering is when a worshipper places their hands on the bull, lamb or dove, transferring their sins and use the entire animal to as an offering for their sins. The blood of the animal is sprinkled on the altar and then all the parts of the animal are burned before God. This was done morning and evening.

12. Burnt offering – The work and energy that a burnt offering requires highlights the heart of the worshipper as someone who is fully surrendered to God.

13. Burnt offering – It was purposeful, in obedience to scripture and required time.

14. To the Lord – These Levites viewed God as someone who truly desires a relationship with them (the bulls took the ark from the Philistines back to them and stopped in their field) but yet He has all authority and power, and reigns over all.

15. To the Lord – All of this was done on their own initiative out of their respect for the Lord.

16. Took down – The Levites taking down the ark acknowledges that the ark has made it home or has completed its military maneuver.

17. Took down – They were completely committed to initiate giving.

18. The ark of the Lord – Even though they were taking down the ark they clearly understood that the ark belonged to the most powerful and mighty God.

19. Put them on the large stone – The articles from the ark determined and focused how worship will take place.
20. Offered – With the burnt offering ready the Levites ascended up to the rock in holy respect of God.

21. Burnt offering – A burnt offering is when a worshipper places their hands on the bull, lamb or dove, transferring their sins and use the entire animal to as an offering for their sins. The blood of the animal is sprinkled on the altar and then all the parts of the animal is burned before God. This was done morning and evening.

22. Burnt offering – The work and energy that a burnt offering requires highlights the heart of the worshipper as someone who is fully surrendered to God.

23. Sacrificed – They repeated the process of taking a burnt offering to God endlessly all day.

24. Sacrificed – Their work in the fields became irrelevant because of all that it took to faithfully worship God all day.

25. Sacrifices – These men repeatedly all day brought blood sacrifices to the Lord. This means they were all day putting forth a lot of relentless energy in bringing an acceptable gift to God.

26. Sacrifices – Some people bring gifts to God because they must, but some bring gifts to God because they want to. The sincerely desire to worship God because they are totally absorbed with who He is.

27. To the Lord - The nature of who the Lord is dominated their focus and purpose of worship.

28. When the Philistines saw – The Philistines who followed the ark to Bethshemish remained all day and watched the joyous surrender to completely worship the Lord.

29. When the Philistines saw – The Philistines came to a complete understanding that the ark belongs to the Jews (no one got sick even when they touched it), and its importance and centrality in the way it directs worship.

30. When the Philistines saw – It did not matter what the Philistines saw, even after what they experienced. Nothing that was done moved them to seek to worship the Lord.

31. When the Philistines saw – It is a relationship with God and a knowledge of God to stimulates true worship.

32. Turn away – To turn away and endlessly return to their country means they willfully decided not to worship the God of Israel.

33. Same day – Seems like they followed the ark and after witnessing the worship service, and no harm came to the Israelites, they fully released the ark.

34. Same day – No harm came to the Jews, when harm came to them, so it is best to return home.

35. Same day – There was no point in staying because there was no interest in worshipping the Lord.

36. The Philistines returned – The unsaved can know what we do but they cannot relate.

37. The Philistines returned – The lack of a relationship with God fails to produce worship.

38. The Philistines returned – The Philistines returned having no worship experiencing no change.
39. The Philistines returned – When there is no relationship or understanding of who God is giving is hard.

