

Reason for Thanks & Praise – Nov. 24, 2021

2 Samuel 6 – David has the Ark return to Jerusalem. 40 yrs.

- Explain the Ark (manna, Aaron's rod, & tablets) (Ex. 37)
- Ark was @ Kiriath Jearim during Saul's reign, put in Abinadab's house. It was in obscurity. Not present.
- Restoring the Ark to the center of the nation's life. . . God is King.

In the course of returning the Ark, **Uzzah** took hold of the Ark. Died.

2 rules: don't touch, don't look. (Nu. 4:15-20)

David is filled w/fear. Angry w/God. Abandons it. We do the same...

- From beginning, Eve & the apple, there are consequences.
 - We get angry w/God ... we want blessings w/no burdens.
 - God doesn't play favorites... we miss blessings b/c we're pouting.
 - Prodigal Son – brother missed the party
- The beauty.... consequences & justice... God has mercy; won't let go

House of Obed-Edom is blessed - 3 months.

David now goes to get the Ark.

David – wearing linen ephod – “danced before the Lord with all his might.”

– **2 Sam. 6:1.** - Shouts of joy & trumpets. Sets up ark; offering to God.

David blessed the people. Gave loaf of bread, cake-dates, cake-raisins

That is Worship. Overflowing. Thanksgiving.

Dance like no one is watching. Sing. Hands Up. Praise God.

Michal saw David “leaping & dancing before the Lord, she despised him.”

Thought he was undignified; had “humiliated himself.”

David's reply: God chose me... from Pasture to Palace.

I will celebrate... I will be undignified, make a fool of myself for God.

David's reply is at the heart of Thanksgiving.

- Look back to see God's faithfulness... be thankful for what God's done
- Thankful that God chose him... we all have a purpose... we're chosen
- Nothing so great as to be doing something for God... filled w/joy.

This is Thanksgiving . . .

Closing Points:

- 1 – We all must decide - is God going to be central, or outside my life?
- 2 – How long will I stay angry at God?
- 3 – What am I doing for God? How am I making a difference?
How am I being a Blessing?

- The best joy comes in giving.
- Count your blessings ... then bless others.

Praise God for who He is, not what He's done today.

Praise Him in all things... all circumstances.

Praise Him for detours & challenges... the opportunities to be a blessing.

Praise Him for storms... the ways we grow.

Thanksgiving isn't just about being thankful when everything is great.

First Thanksgiving in America . . . God saved them; overcomers!

- 102 passengers/30 crew sailed on the Mayflower. 66-day voyage.

- Didn't land where they wanted to land b/c of strong winter seas.

- **Nov. 21, 1620** - landed near Provincetown, before moving to Plymouth.

- Winter weather much colder than back home; Spent the night ashore in below-freezing temperatures, wet shoes & stockings that became frozen.

- By the first year of settlement, 51 of the 102 colonists died.

- **1621** - the health & economic condition improved. Gov. William Bradford invited neighboring Indians to celebrate the bounty of that year's harvest season.

*** Thanksgiving was celebrating life, God's provision, even w/ loss.

It's taking time to recognize what God has done

Stay positive. Test negative. Vaccinated. Jan. 5, 2022

Song of the week: **"We Are So Blessed"** - TaRanda Greene.