

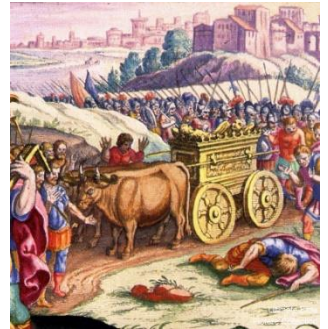
Even Though it May Seem Right...

By: Lenny Chapman

Through biblical teaching, one understands a Christian's responsibility to teach others helping them to discern right from wrong. Knowing that we may possibly be the only avenue that certain people will ever have, to hear the "good news," it is important that we do not let these opportunities slip away. When we consider one's disobedience to God's law, often the answer given as to why a person has transgressed is that *"it seemed right."* Most times if our heart is right with God and we have a good understanding of biblical teachings, our conscience can be our guide. Unfortunately, there are too many who misinterpret the Bible and its teachings and, therefore, find themselves in error even though they have the best of intentions.

Let us consider the law that was given to the children of Israel concerning the handling of holy things. The handling of holy things was restricted to the priests and even they had limitations and specific rules that were mandated. If one was not a descendant of the priesthood, they had no right to handle or touch any holy thing. In fact, the consequence for handling or touching any holy thing was death. ***"And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry."*** (Numbers 4:15).

Now let us fast-forward in history to 2 Samuel Chapter 6, where we see David preparing to bring the ark of God back to the people of Israel. David chose two men to bear the responsibility of transporting the ark of God to its destination. As the new cart arrived to carry the ark, Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were the men chosen for this important mission. The atmosphere was joyous and excitement seemed to be plentiful as David led the whole house of Israel in music that was played before the cart throughout the journey. ***"And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. 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."*** (2 Sam 6:2-5).



Everything seemed to be going as planned until the caravan entered an area of rough terrain causing the cart to become unstable. ***"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."*** (2 Sam 6:6-7). Obviously Uzzah was very concerned for the safety of the ark. Even though it may have seemed right to touch the ark to stabilize it and protect it, Uzzah broke the law of God. His intentions were good, but the ultimate result was error that angered God.

This practical lesson can and should be applied by all today. Just because something seems right, it is not always right! One way, in which we see this today, is the addition of instrumental music as a better way to worship God. The New Testament scriptures can be searched and searched, and one will not find instrumental music ordained by God in His worship. Even though it may seem right, if God has not approved of the act, all the good intentions of the world will not make it right! Let us remember this simple practical lesson in all that we do.