

## Sloth and Pouting

2 Samuel 6:8-10

Enter into the Lord's presence with joy and gratitude.

Are you beginning to see patterns of sloth or pride in your life?

You are in Jerusalem awaiting the ark. Up until this week, we have seen a David who was very deliberate and patient. But, he gets a little too excited and opts for a quicker plan than God's. This leads to a catastrophe.

Pray that the Lord draws you out of sloth to embrace the kingly mission he has given you. Pray for the grace of freedom and humility for all Exodus Men, just as they are praying for you.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter. Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen.

### A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

And David was angry because the Lord had broken forth upon Uzzah; and that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day. And David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" So David was not willing to take the ark of the Lord into the city of David; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

### Reflection

David does not seem to recognize his mistake, nor does he take responsibility for what happened to Uzzah. He did not institute some kind of national day of mourning or remembrance, as he had in the past. He seems to feel slighted by God. In fact, his response is a rather pouty "Fine, Lord! If that's the way you play, then I'll take my toys and go home."

As we noted yesterday, David was in a bit of a rush in bringing the Ark to Jerusalem. Rather than have it carried by people using acacia wood poles, David prefers his faster method of having the Ark carried on a cart by oxen. When he does not get his way, he throws up his hands and says in exasperation, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" Which is to say, "This is impossible!" or even "This is futile!" Then, he startlingly hands the Ark over to a foreigner, Obed-edom the Gittite.

David thought he was doing God a great favor, and so he expects God to overlook his haste or neglect of the rules. Do we think God should have to play by our rules or meet our constraints and expectations when we pray or worship him? Do we relax our commitment to Church disciplines (like the hour fast before receiving Communion), justifying ourselves with thoughts that more or less treat the Church like an inconvenience? Do we breeze

through our prayers with our minds on other things? Do we purposely neglect to confess a sin about which we are embarrassed because we know that even sins we genuinely forget to confess are forgiven? Consider your approach to the Christian life in prayer today, and give the Lord time to respond.

Now place yourself before God, and converse with him.

#### Week 4 Action Items

Plan a Midsummer's Eve Bonfire for Friday and invite men into your fraternity.

Recommit to your daily prayer.

Evaluate your technology use.