The Blindspot

1 Chronicles 13:6–12

6 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the Lord, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.
7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart.
8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.
9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled.
10 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.
11 And David was displeased, because the Lord had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day.
12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?

Blind Sight

• Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip.
  o After a good meal,
    ▪ they lay down for the night and went to sleep.
• Some hours later, Holmes awoke
  o and nudged his faithful friend.
    ▪ "Watson, look up and tell me what you see."
• Watson replied,
  o "I see millions and millions of stars."
• "What does that tell you?"
  o Watson pondered for a minute.
    ▪ "Astronomically, it tells me
      • that there are millions of galaxies
        o and potentially billions of planets.
    ▪ Astrologically, I observe
      • that Saturn is in Leo.
    ▪ Horologically, I deduce
      • that the time is approximately
        o a quarter past three.
    ▪ Theologically, I can see
      • that God is all-powerful
        o and that we are small and insignificant.
    ▪ Meteorologically, I suspect
      • that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow.

The Blind Spot
Holmes said,
  o  "Watson you idiot,
      ▪  someone has stolen our tent."

Sometimes we are blind
  o  to what is right in front of our eyes.

**Right Question. Wrong Time.**

- In our text we read
  o  the tragic story of the death of Uzza.
- The Ark of the Covenant
  o  had been captured by the Philistines
    ▪  nearly 20 years before David became king.
- The Ark was Israel’s national treasure
  o  and most sacred object;
    ▪  it was the place where
      ▪  the presence of God dwelt
        o  among His people.
- However, one terrible day in battle,
  o  Saul determined that the Ark
    ▪  had the power to save them,
      ▪  not God – the Ark.
- So he brought the Ark into battle
  o  without the blessing
    ▪  or instruction of God.
- Tragedy soon followed.
  o  The Philistines carried the day
    ▪  and captured the Ark.
  o  However, they didn’t keep it very long.
    ▪  First they put it in the temple of their idol, Dagon,
      ▪  but the presence of God destroyed their idol.
  o  Then a great plague came over the city.
    ▪  When they moved the Ark to a new city,
      ▪  the plague would appear there too.
  o  Eventually they realized that
    ▪  the problem wasn’t the plague.
      ▪  The problem was the Ark.
- They had no business
  o  possessing the glory of God.
    ▪  So they built themselves a new cart
      ▪  and hitched to a team of oxen
        o  and sent the Ark back to Jerusalem.
- The Ark only made it as far as Abinidab’s house,
  o  in Kiriath-Jearim,
• which is about 20 miles from Jerusalem,
  • where it remained for the rest of Saul’s reign.

• When David became king,
  o and established his throne in Jerusalem,
    • he determined to bring the Ark
      • to his new capital,
      • to provide the focus for worship
        • and a rallying point for the nation.
  o He wanted the glory of God
    • back in Jerusalem.
  o I want you to recognize,
    • David’s intentions were pure.
      • His goal was good and godly.
  o That was never the problem,
    • indeed, the day when David
      • finally accomplished that goal
        o was probably one of
          • the greatest days in David’s life.

• However, in his haste to do a good thing,
  o in his zeal for the glory of God,
    • David failed to take the time
      • to learn the proper way
        o to transport the Ark.

• The instructions were written
  o in the pages of the law.
    • Any Levite would have been able
      • to point David to the right passage.
  o The Ark was to be carried
    • on the shoulders of the priests.
  o That is how God
    • always intended for the ark to be moved.
  o Instead of gathering the priests to transport the Ark,
    • David built a brand new cart.
  o Where do you think he got that idea?
    • He didn’t get it from the word of God.
      • He got it from the Philistines.
  o The only time the ark
    • was ever carried on a new cart
      • was when the Philistines sent it home.

• So David, instead of consulting the word of God,
  o took his cues from the Philistines
    • – the very people

The Blind Spot
Who stood against the things of God.

- My goodness,
  - I could preach a while right here.
    - We are always going to mess up
    - when we blindly follow
      - after a godless world
      - or a carnal society,
        - instead of consulting the will of God.

- David, following the worldly example of the Philistines,
  - "carried the ark of God in a new cart
    - out of the house of Abinadab:
      - and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart."

- The scene then unfolds before our eyes:
  - David and all Israel played before God
    - with all their might,
      - and with singing,
      - and with harps,
      - and with psalteries,
      - and with timbrels,
      - and with cymbals,
      - and with trumpets.

- There was great cause for celebration.
  - The Ark was coming home.

- Then it happened.
  - The oxen stumbled
    - and Uzza reached out
      - and steadied the Ark on the cart.
  - And the anger of the Lord
    - was kindled against Uzza,
      - and he smote him,
        - because he put his hand to the ark:
          - and there he died before God...
  - And David was afraid of God that day,
    - saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?

- After the disaster,
  - when it was too late to matter,
    - as the oxen stood in their harnesses
      - and Uzza's body lay cold on the ground,
  - then, and only then,
    - did David seriously ask the question
      - that he should have asked


**Somehow, David got so caught up**
- in the zeal of doing a good thing
  - that he forgot to consult
    - the record of scripture.

**He neglected to ask**
- how the Ark of God
  - is supposed to be moved.
    - Had he asked,
      - the answer was there.
- Had he only asked,
  - poor Uzza wouldn’t have had to die.
- But David waited until it was too late
  - to ask the right question.
- He was blind to the danger
  - that he was walking into.
    - He thought everything was OK.
      - He was sure this was the will of God.
    - He was certain that God
      - would approve of what he was doing.

**As a matter of fact,**
- he was so certain
  - that he neglected to ask God...
    - Until it was too late.

**You understand, Uzza didn’t have to die.**
- The Ark could have gone home that day.
  - But David failed to ask the right question
    - until it was too late.

**Too Late**
- Too often, as a pastor,
  - I am invited into a conversation
    - with folks in the wake of personal tragedy.
- In those situations,
  - I often discover folks
    - who are asking all the right questions.
      - How do I get right with God?
      - How do I get God back into my marriage?
      - How can I get my children more involved with church?
  - All those are good questions.
    - However, all too often,
• they are only asked
  o after an individual
  o has run afoul of the law.
  ▪ Or after a marriage has been
    • wrecked by an affair.
  ▪ Or after the children
    • have fallen into the wrong crowd.

• Much like David,
  o it's not until disaster strikes,
    ▪ until someone is lying dead on the ground,
    • that we really seriously consult God.

• It’s a good thing to seek a word from God,
  o but you really need that word
    ▪ before the tragedy.

• You really need some divine instruction
  o before you make the decision
    ▪ that takes your family out of church,
  o before you take the job
    ▪ that wrecks your marriage,
    • before you date the person
      ▪ that leads you into spiritual bondage.

• You need an answer from God
  o before the marriage is lost,
    ▪ before the relationship is broken,
    • before the kids lose out with God.

• But all too often
  o we don’t get the answer
    ▪ because we fail to seek the counsel of God.

• Somebody under the sound of my voice tonight
  o needs to know that God still speaks.
    ▪ God is still giving counsel and direction.
  o If you seek him,
    ▪ the scripture promises,
      ▪ you will find him.
  o The reason why we can’t find his will,
    ▪ why we can’t see his hand,
      ▪ why we can’t hear his voice
        ▪ is because we haven’t sought his face.

• I feel compelled of the Holy Ghost
  o to plead with some individual
    ▪ in this house tonight,
      • before you make the next decision,
before you take another step,
- please ask the right question
  - before it's too late.
- Please, take the time
  - to seek the face of God.
- Please, take the time
  - to seek out godly counsel
    - and godly direction.
- He will order your footsteps,
  - if you will let him.
- He will open the right doors
  - and bless you as you walk through them.
- However, just because a door swings open
  - doesn't necessarily mean
    - that God is the one who opened it.
- You will never know
  - until you consult him.
- Sometimes what looked like a door of opportunity
  - becomes the very thing
    - that leads you to your downfall!

**Blindspots**
- The other night, on the way back from Steele, MO.
  - My wife was in the car behind me,
    - with her mother,
      - and I was in the truck with my boys.
- I was on the phone with my wife
  - as we hit the on-ramp to get on I55.
- Pulling onto the ramp
  - I glanced over my shoulder
    - and, seeing no traffic,
      - I began to accelerate
        - to merge onto the interstate.
  - And my wife says, “What are you doing?”
    - Don't you love it when that happens?
      - I mean, what does it look like I'm doing.
  - So, in an incredulous tone of voice
    - I said, “I'm merging onto the interstate.”
      - (Like, duh!)
- Her next words, though,
  - sent a chill down my spine,
    - “Look out for that truck beside you.”
- I quickly turned my head again,
  - this time a little further,
• and there he was,
  • in my blind spot.
    o I couldn’t see him.
    o I had no idea he was there.
    o I thought everything was fine.
• And I was just about
  • to merge my vehicle with his
    o at 70 mph!

• Countless thousands of automobile accidents
  o happen every single day
    ▪ on America’s highways.
• Not all of them are fatal
  o but nearly 1.3 million people die
    ▪ in road crashes each year.
    • That is an average of 3,287 fatalities a day.
• More than half of all of those fatalities
  o occur among young adults ages 15-44.
    ▪ Anyone want to take a guess
      • at what the leading cause
        o of fatal traffic accidents
          ▪ in that age bracket is?
            • The blind spot!
  o That place where you can’t see,
    ▪ that void in your vision
      • that lulls you into making a fatal decision.
  o What don’t know really can kill you.
    ▪ What you cannot see, can ruin your life!

• That’s the danger of a blind spot.
  o And, like it or not,
    ▪ we all have blind spots.
  o We all have places
    ▪ where we don’t see so clearly.
• As a matter of fact,
  o when it comes to judging ourselves,
    ▪ we are not very good judges.
• The writer of Proverbs honed in on the problem when he said,

Proverbs 16:25
25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

• There is a way that seems right.
  o There is a way that human rationale
• can always justify.
  o There is a way that,
    ▪ for every intent and purpose,
      • feels like the right way.
• But we are blind sometimes to the truth.
  o We are blind sometimes
    ▪ to the unintended consequences
      • of the decisions we make.
  o We are blind sometimes
    ▪ To the dangers that are lurking
      • in our blind spot.
• As a matter of fact, the Proverbs writer says,

Proverbs 21:2
2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes...

• Every thing we do,
  o every decision we make,
    ▪ every choice we embrace,
      • they all seem good to us.
  o They all seem right to us.
    ▪ This is the problem.
  o When it comes to ourselves,
    ▪ we all have a glaringly huge blind spot.

• We are not good at evaluating our own actions.
  o We are all partial when it comes to ourselves.
    ▪ We are too biased.
  o We think too favorably of our own character.
• We have a hard time admitting
  o that we could do something wrong,
    ▪ or that the good thing that we want to do
      • could lead us down the right path.
• We are absolutely blind sometimes
  o to the direction that we are walking.
• We become so fascinated
  o with some good intention
    ▪ that we fail to see the danger
      • lurking in the shadows.
• We judge every decision we make,
  o every step we take,
    ▪ every thing we do to be good.
  o We always see the best in us.
• No wonder we never start
  o to truly question our preconceived suppositions
    ▪ until the train has already run off the tracks.
  o It is only when we have shipwrecked our faith,
    ▪ or our family,
    ▪ or our marriage,
    • that we truly begin to ask,
      o “What would the right choice have been?”
• What should I have done?
  o Right question.
    ▪ Wrong time.

Another Perspective
• How do you avoid the danger
  o that lurks in your blind spot?
• Well, the experts say
  o that the best way to avoid
    ▪ colliding with something
      ▪ in your blind spot
        o is to have more than one set of eyes watching.
• When you have a second person in the car,
  o watching the traffic with you,
    ▪ their perspective is different from yours.
• They can see into your blind spot
  o and you can see into theirs.
• That’s how Sister Angie saved me
  o from a wreck that night.
    ▪ She could see, what I could not see.
• The only way to wipe out the blind spot
  o is to entertain the view from another perspective.

• Now, I’m not a big fan of back seat drivers.
  o I get really irritated sometimes
    ▪ when she squeals
      ▪ like I’m about to have the mother of all wrecks,
        o then says, I wasn’t sure
          ▪ if you saw that car coming.
• But, can I be honest with you?
  o Just between you and me,
    ▪ if I want her to know, I’ll tell her,
      • she’s saved me from
        o a lot of wrecks over the years.
• It is hard to admit,
but sometimes I don’t see real clearly.
  • Sometimes I get a little distracted.
• And there have been times
  o when I would have made a mess of things
    ▪ if she weren’t there
      • to see what I did not see.
• There is always value in having
  o another set of eyes watching
    ▪ where you are going
      • and judging what you are doing.
• Another perspective is a valuable thing.
  o But it matters where that perspective comes from.

**The Wrong Perspective**

• When David prepared to bring
  o the Ark of the Covenant
    ▪ from Kiriath-jearim to Jerusalem,
      • he sought counsel.
• He just sought it from the wrong people.
  o Instead of inquiring of the Lord,
    ▪ how to bring the Ark home
  o and instead of inquiring of the priests
    ▪ how to carry the ark,
      • David sought the counsel of the captains
        o that he had set over
          ▪ thousands and hundreds.
  o And they put their stamp
    ▪ of approval on David’s plan.
      • It seemed right to them:

1 Chronicles 13:1-4
1 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader.
2 And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the Lord our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us:
3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.
4 And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people.

• The problem is that what seemed right
  o to the congregation,
    ▪ what seemed right to the crowd,
• what seemed right to the men
  o who called David King,
• was not the same
  o as what seemed right to God.

• But David couldn't see the difference.
  o It was in his blind spot.
• He was oblivious to the danger
  o that he was putting Uzza into.

The Right Perspective

• So where do we find another perspective,
  o how do we find a light to shine
    ▪ into the blind spot in our lives?
    o You need a word from God!
      ▪ You need to hear from Him.
    o Listen, God will speak into your life
      ▪ if only you will listen!
      ▪ How does he do that?

• One way he does that is through daily prayer.
  o How come we often wait, just like David,
    ▪ until after the tragedy
      ▪ to actually pray about our situation?
• I know I’ve said it before
  o but for too many of us,
    ▪ prayer is like the fire extinguisher
    ▪ that sits behind a pane of glass
      ▪ with this message written on it,
        ▪ in case of emergency.
• No! Prayer isn’t just for emergencies.
  o Prayer is how you get guidance from God.
• Prayer is one way
  o that you can get another perspective
    ▪ from one who sees everything in your life,
      ▪ especially your blind spots!

• Another way that God will speak into your life
  o is through the Bible.
• The Psalmist said,
  o “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
    ▪ and a light unto my path.”
• The word of God illuminates our path,
  o it shows us where we are supposed to walk,
    ▪ it helps us gain another perspective

The Blind Spot
• into the blind spots in our lives.
• Nearly every hospital room in the world
  o has a Gideon Bible in it.
• That’s a good thing,
  o because far too often
  ▪ we don’t turn to the Bible for answers
  ▪ until after the disaster has occurred.
• In the waiting room,
  o in that terrible place
  ▪ where we are trying to
  ▪ put our lives back together again,
  ▪ that’s often where
  ▪ the Bible finally gets consulted.
• My goodness.
  o Listen to this preacher tonight.
• The answers to the questions
  o that have plagued your soul
  ▪ are in this book!
• Godly counsel,
  o instructions in righteousness,
  ▪ a divine perspective
  ▪ into the blind spots in your life...
    ▪ All of it is found in the Bible.
• Don’t wait until it is too late
  o to finally decide to consult the scriptures!
• Another way God speaks into your life
  o is through the voice of your pastor.
  ▪ We all need a man of God in our lives.
• But friend, listen to what I’m telling you,
  o I’m willing to pray with you any time,
  ▪ I’m willing to counsel you
  ▪ under any circumstances
  o but it makes my job a whole lot easier
  ▪ if you seek prayer and counsel
  ▪ before the disaster happens!
• God will use the man of God
  o to speak wisdom and direction into your life.
• But all too often
  o we neglect that counsel until its too late.
• I’ll be here to help you pick up the pieces,
  o I’ll be here to help you start over again,
  ▪ but it would be much easier on you
  ▪ and me
• if you would seek a little direction
  • before your life gets shattered.

Close
• Five times in the book of Haggai,
  o the prophet encourages the people
    • to give careful thought to their lives.
• He was telling them
  o to take the time to consider their ways,
    • to contemplate the direction
      • that they were heading.
• This evening, I feel like
  o I have a mandate from heaven
    • to make you aware
      • that there are some voids in your vision,
    • to make you aware
      • that you have some blind spots
        o and to encourage you
          • to stop and consider your ways.
• Seek godly counsel.
  o Spend some time in prayer
    • about the decisions in your life.
• Spend some time reading the word
  o and examining yourself against it.
• Take the time to invite
  o your pastor into your prayer circle.
• But whatever you do,
  o before you make a final decision
    • about anything in your life,
      • make sure that you have heard from God!
• That’s the only way to avoid
  o the danger in your blind spot!
• Hellen Keller was once asked the question
  o “What could be worse than being blind?”
    • to which she replied
  o “The only thing worse than being blind
    • is having sight but no vision.”
• Sometimes we can see plainly,
  o we just can’t see everything.
• And, contrary to popular opinion,
  o what you can’t see can kill you.
    • Or even worse, it can kill someone else,
      • perhaps someone you love.

The Blind Spot
• Don’t wait until Uzza is dead to seek the face of God!

And let me say this, when you come to the pastor and say, “I feel like God is telling me to do this or that, or to make this life decision or this important choice...” You are not seeking godly counsel. You are simply placating your conscience about a decision that you have already made. The way to approach your pastor is to say, “I’m considering this choice, or this decision, would you pray with me about it and see what God has to say.” That’s not to say that God cannot, or will not, speak directly to you. That is only to say that the time to seek counsel from your pastor is before you’ve already settled the issue in your heart.