

## Self Study Guide

"Extreme Grace" - 2 Samuel 6:1-15

### Background and Context

This sermon explores the story of the Ark of the Covenant being transported to Jerusalem, the death of Uzzah, and what these events reveal about God's holiness, the seriousness of sin, and the mercy God extends to his people through Jesus Christ. The passage invites us to examine our understanding of God's holiness and the extraordinary lengths to which he went to bring sinful people into his presence.

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. God's holiness is absolute and not to be treated casually or ignored, even with good intentions.
2. Sin is not a minor infraction but what theologian R.C. Sproul called "cosmic treason" against a perfectly holy God.
3. The Ark of the Covenant, with its mercy seat and the blood of sacrifice, was a picture pointing forward to the work of Jesus Christ.
4. Jesus is both our great high priest and our perfect sacrifice. His blood covers our sin completely.
5. God's people are called to examine themselves regularly, living in repentance and at peace with one another, especially as they approach the Lord's Table.
6. The same presence of God that brought judgment to the unclean brought blessing to the righteous household of Obed-Edom. God's holiness is not only to be feared but also to be welcomed by those covered in Christ's blood.

### Questions

1. When you hear the word "holy," what comes to mind? How would you define holiness in your own words before diving into the sermon content?
2. Have you ever experienced a moment when the weight of God's holiness felt real and personal to you? What was that like?

## Understanding the Text

1. The ark was being transported on a cart pulled by oxen rather than carried on poles by priests, as God had instructed. Why do you think David and the others may have chosen to cut corners on God's instructions? What does that tell us about human nature?
2. Uzzah likely reached out to steady the ark with good intentions. Yet God struck him dead. What does this event reveal about the relationship between intentions and obedience? Can good intentions justify disobeying God's clear instructions?
3. The three items inside the ark, the manna, Aaron's staff, and the Ten Commandments, were each connected to a moment of Israel's sin and God's mercy. What does it tell us about God's character that he chose to dwell above these particular objects?

## Going Deeper

1. The sermon quoted R.C. Sproul, who wrote that sin is "cosmic treason against a perfectly pure sovereign" and "an act of supreme ingratitude toward the one to whom we owe everything." Does that description of sin change or challenge the way you normally think about your own sin? Why or why not?
2. Andy asked the congregation to imagine a device that would project every thought onto a screen for everyone to see. How does that image help you understand why God's standard of holiness is so demanding? How does it make the grace of Christ feel more significant?
3. The sermon drew a direct line from the mercy seat and the blood of animal sacrifice to the cross of Jesus Christ. In what ways does understanding the Old Testament sacrificial system deepen your appreciation for what Jesus accomplished?
4. Obed-Edom, who kept the ark in his home for three months, was blessed rather than harmed. What does his story suggest about what it looks like to live in the presence of a holy God when one is righteous?

## Read "The Holiness of God" by R.C. Sproul.

Andy recommended it as essential reading for every Christian.