

SCCC – OBEDIENCE ABOVE GOOD INTENTIONS

S- Scriptures

“They moved the ark of God from Abinadab’s house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, timbrels, cymbals, and trumpets.

C – Consideration

The Scriptures called David, a man according to God’s heart. He was the greatest worshipper of the Old Testament’s history. Moved by his love and zealous for God, he prepared a huge parade, with singing, playing and, dances to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. The man was full of good intentions in his heart; however, something went wrong in the middle of the procession, “When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. The Lord’s anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.” The method they used to move the Ark, was the same one the Philistines had used decades earlier, using a cart and oxen to carry it. A few months later, after the catastrophic experience, he called at this time, not his political leaders, but priests for a second try. Eventually, the second journey succeeded, as David found out the reason for the failure, “And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD. It was because you, the Levites did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way.”

C – Commitment

This incident can teach us so many lessons. How many times we are full of good intentions, of altruism to carry on some assignments to the glory of God, we think. I have heard many stories of people who went into some mission journey that resulted in failure and disappointment. Personally, I have experienced in my own Christian life such incidents. David was humble enough to search why that tragedy happened that day. He knew that God was not the one to blame; the fault was among them. The Scriptures said that David admitted, “we didn’t inquire of God about how to do it in the prescribed way.” In other words, they didn’t read the Bible. The Philistine’s way probably seemed very practical and much more attractive, with the ornamented cart, and two beautiful oxen carrying on God’s Ark. It was such a modern festival to the Lord, they thought. However, in doing such a thing, they dishonored the Lord, for they were mixing pagan customs in their worship. Unfortunately, in our days, there are many people with very good intentions, making the same mistakes. They are modernizing, or, “paganizing” God’s celebrations. Instead of looking into the Scriptures to understand what they should be doing, they are looking into secular gurus, and their techniques, human tradition, and other tools that eventually bring the same results experienced by David. I believe that from time to time we have to ask some questions, “Am I

honoring the Lord with my worship? Am I doing things in His ways? Am I allowing worldly and pagan practices to be part of my worship? Am I humble and bold enough to repent and to reprove such behaviors? Good intentions without obedience will never please God.

C – Call

My Heavenly Father, help me to keep Your word in my heart, so I would not dishonor You. Help me to discern, to avoid whatever non-prescribed way of practices in my worship. Help my brethren Lord, not to fall into the same mistakes, but to faithfully obey Your word. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.