

TAKING THE THINGS OF GOD LIGHTLY

2 Samuel 6:1-7

1 Samuel 5

Introduction: When God had the Ark of the Covenant made, He gave specific instructions of how, what, who and when in exact detail. The Ark had a specific place in the tabernacle where it rested and no one was permitted within that area except the High Priest and then only on certain occasions. Whenever the Ark was to be moved, again it was according to specific instructions of God. Any mistreatment or disrespect of the Ark brought God's wrath which happened on several occasions. Plagues, death to 50,000 and even to one man who touched the Ark attempting to keep it from falling from a cart. The Ark had lost its importance to those around it. Sadly the things of God have been taken lightly throughout man's history, including people of today who have cheapened Godly things.

I. SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SHOW RESPECT

1. The story is told of a young woman touring Europe and visited a museum in Vienna. There on display but behind ropes was the piano of Beethoven. The young woman lifted the ropes, sat down at the piano and began to bang on the keys trying to play "chopsticks" which brought the guards who promptly escorted the young woman out of the building for such a display of lack of respect. Paderewski, also a great musician had once visited the museum but said that he was unworthy to even touch the piano of the great Beethoven.
2. Sad, but true, there have been occasions when one has grown up in a christian home and being accustomed to being around a Godly atmosphere, the things of God become common, familiar, even boring and respect for those Godly things has faded away.
3. So often today instead of teaching and preaching about God's Holiness there are sermons and seminars on "How to be a happy wife or husband or, etc.." There are classes on how to deal with just about every habit a person can have.
 - God intends for His children to be Holy, conformed to Christ's image and when this happens there is respect for the things of God.
4. God is holy and jealous. He doesn't play church!
 - The things of God have been cheapened and made common by His own Children.

II. THINGS OF GOD HAVE BEEN CHEAPENED

1. The concept of God has been cheapened. (*Psalms 50:1-23*)
 - Today God is considered like a "grandfather" or "the man upstairs" or "best buddy," etc.
2. God's Word has been cheapened.
 - There are arguments as to whether God's Word is all or partially inspired, higher criticism vrs lower criticism.
 - People forget that Jesus used God's Word to defeat Satan.

3. Salvation has been cheapened.
 - Just walk the isle, fill out a card, repeat a prayer.
 - No tears of repentance, no broken heart.
 - Need to baptize so many this year to beat last year's record.
4. Worship has been cheapened.
 - Reverence is lost, no Holy atmosphere prevails.
 - Entertainment and short "sermons" is called "worship" today.
 - Come out of a service with the ears ringing from the loudness of the music.
 - Don't need to take the Bible or use the hymnal as all is projected on screens.
 - God doesn't get a chance to make Himself known in most of today's services.
5. The Church has been cheapened.
 - It seems anybody can get in and nobody gets out.
 - What once was called a "sheepfold" has been turned into a "zoo."
 - God's TRUE Church is costly.
6. Christianity has been cheapened.
 - It doesn't mean anything to be called a "christian" today.
 - Who is really a Christian today, only God would know.
7. God's music has been cheapened.
 - Gone are the hymns that through the centuries moved the hearts and changed lives which were written by men and women who had encountered God and became new people.
 - Sounds that once filled places of "ill repute" are now filling God's sanctuaries.
 - Words to the sounds are repetitious, repeated over and over again and again with the performers often gyrating their bodies to the sounds very much like the satanic rituals of pagan religions.
 - God's music has been dragged down to the basic humanistic animalism.

CONCLUSION:

1. God never intended to be a "buddy" to man.
2. God never intended for His Word to be questioned by man.
3. God never intended for Worship of Him to be nothing more than loud entertainment.
4. God never intended for Salvation to become cheap.
5. God never intended for His Church to become filled with non-christians with their ideas.
6. God never intended for being a Christian to be meaningless and secondary.
7. God has not changed and is still Holy and is still God. A wise person will see that and react accordingly, giving God the honor and respect due Him.
8. Who is God to you?