

Avoiding the Snare of Pragmatism (2 Samuel 6:1-15)

- Depending on the context, the concept of *pragmatism* is not necessarily wrong or sinful.
- However, whenever pragmatism causes us to ignore, be ignorant of, or minimize the authority of God's Word, then it is has not only become misguided in its purpose(s), but it has also become **unbiblical, unholy, sinful, and utterly unacceptable for God's people to pursue!**
- *"The problem with pragmatism is that it works."* (Dr. Les Ollila)
- *"Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and **almost right**."* (Charles H. Spurgeon)

Observations

- While David and his large worship gathering (30,000 strong!) had seemingly good motives, emotions, and structure, **they did not seek God's Word or counsel**. As a result, they utterly failed in their objective due to God not respecting their unbiblical pragmatism, which was sin. **(1 Chronicles 13:1-8)**
- David, Uzzah and all the people learned (or were reminded) the hard way that **God cares more about our obedience to His Word** than He does about our motives and emotions, no matter how pragmatic they may seem to us. *[True worship = biblical obedience]*. **(1 Chronicles 13:14; 15:11-15)**
- The next time, David and the Israelites **did things God's way and they were blessed by God** with great success, true joy, and full satisfaction. **(1 Chronicles 15-17)**

Implications and Application

1. **Notice the lethal nature of ignorance towards God's Word.**
2. **Notice the severity of God's wrath on improper methodology regardless of the motives.**
3. **Notice the change in David's heart from unbiblical pragmatism to prioritizing God's glory.**
4. **Be encouraged with the blessings that God gives to us when we commit to obeying His Word.**
5. **Avoid the snare of pragmatism by studying, meditating on, and ultimately obeying God's Word.**

BIG IDEA: Know God's Word so well that sin becomes repulsive rather than pragmatically optional.