Good morning!

**Slide 1: Close-up of David**

It is good to be here this morning meeting together as God’s people. I am so glad that you are here. For this last series Pastor David has been walking us through the life of King David and what a crazy ride right? It is no wonder he is such an important historical figure. He lived an amazing life! Last week kind of wrapped it all up as we looked at the end of David’s life, but this morning is sort of like a bonus sermon. What better bonus than a sermon??? Today, I am like the special features section on a DVD, does anybody watch those? After the movie is over they will have like a making of documentary or inside the special effects or something, maybe I am the blooper reel…In any case, I am going to jump back a some years and talk about David just after he was crowned King and had established himself in Jerusalem. We are going to start in 2 Sam. Chapter 5 so we can set the stage here. But first, Let’s pray together,

So, as some of you may know, I have been serving as the worship director here for about 2 months…it’s been like 10 Sundays. By now I should have some things figured out, and I am getting there, but y’know, new job, new duties and transitions always take some time, but, given that we have been discussing King David, I knew I wanted to talk about worship today. It has been on my mind a lot lately. And here we have David who was a great warrior king, but he was also the greatest poet and composer or songs the world has ever known. So I want to take some time today to look at David as a worshipper and see what we can learn from him.

**Slide 2: “What is Worship?”**

“Worship” of course, is a church word that we sort of bat around. It can mean many different things. It is a verb, something we do. We worship God, how? Typically by singing. Worship is a thing a noun. We say “The Worship was great this morning” We all say that all the time… Not only is worship a thing but it is also something that needs to be led apparently right? But worship can also denote the entire service or as we would say, the worship service. Now I think words matter, they mean something, so we should use them carefully, but here we are in a nice clean church dealing with a messy word like worship. Well, let’s get our hands dirty this morning.

**Slide 3: David Statue**

As I said, we are in 2 Sam. 5 and in verse 10 we have a sort of summary statement: “And he (David) became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him.” It’s a simple statement, but it explains a lot. David was powerful and becoming more so. Why? Because he was handsome? Because he was popular? Because he was great in battle? Nope. Simply because God was with him. And verse 12 goes on to tell us that God established David for the sake of his people Israel. So David is not lucky or uber-talented, he is not even God’s favorite. He is placed in a position of power for the sake of Israel. All the same, I think it might have gone to his head a little bit. The very next verse reports that as David was getting settled in Jerusalem, he went on a childrearing spree! He took some more wives and some concubines and had a bunch of kids! I want to go through some of this background, because I want us to understand who we are dealing with in this story. David is a youngish man (I figure he is in his late 30’s), he is ruler over a blessed nation and he has a new palace, new wives and new children, it a bit opposite of a mid-life crisis. With all of this newness David knows that God is behind it all, that God is the true sovereign.

Once settled in his palace and role as king, one of David’s first priorities is to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the fabulous new city he is putting together. 2 Sam. 6:2 gives us some information.

**Slide 4: 2 Sam. 2:6**

It says; the Ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the Lord Almighty who is enthroned between the cherubim.

**Slide 5: Movie still**

So if you remember Indiana Jones, you have two angel sculptures on top of this box that contains important items from Israel’s story and basically it is God’s throne. With the ark comes God’s presence. As we mentioned David knows why he has been so successful, because God is with him. So we can understand that the ark is not a physical item that God resides in, but at that time in history, it was the thing upon which God chose to reside. He called it home. David wanted to bring God’s home back to Jerusalem. It is after all the Ark of the Covenant. It represented God’s promises to Israel. This is a really great idea! David and the people were celebrating and basically leading a parade in honor of the Ark.

**Slide 6: 2 Sam. 6:5**

Now, pastor David mentioned this episode a few weeks ago, so I will just quickly mention it here. A man named Uzzah touches the Ark along the parade route to steady it from tipping and Boom, he is struck dead.

**Slide 7: Uzzah picture**

His act, steadying the ark, was irreverent and Uzzah was killed because of it. Harsh…very harsh. David thought so too. Verse 8 and 9 tell us that David was both angry and afraid. He cancels the parade, drops the Ark off at Obed-Edom’s house and goes back to his palace angry and afraid.

I think we can distinguish here, two ways of being in God’s presence David was already blessed without the Ark. God was already with him. But there is something different, special, and concentrated, about the Ark. The place where God dwells can be a dangerous place. Well, things are different for us today. We do not venerate sacred artifacts, we live on the other side of Pentecost. We have the very presence of God living inside of us, dwelling within. What? Why? Because God has choosen to send his Spirit to actually dwell with in his people. So look around you…you are surrounded by God’s presence. This is a concentrated place. But if that is true, why doesn’t it always seem that way? How is it that we can come into God’s presence and leave without being moved, or transformed?

Now, maybe that’s not fair. Maybe you have been changed in many ways, probably you are undergoing transformation in certain areas of your life as I speak right now. But man, think about Moses when he had to wear a veil because he had been in the presence of God, think about the Apostle’s at Pentecost as the Holy Spirit was unleashed, think about poor Uzzah, struck dead for irreverence.

God’s presence is heavy. God’s presence brings along with it consequences both good and harsh. God’s presence is not always comfortable. How can it be? God is perfection, light and holiness. We are sinful, we are dirty, we are comfortable staying that way. But thanks be to God that he has given us his Spirit so that we might become more and more like his only Son, Jesus. We are made to reflect the glory and goodness of the Father. That is not an easy or comfortable job.

So, worship my dear church, is work.

**Slide 8: “Worship is work.”**

Worship is work. SO often we loath the word “work” but when I say worship is work I do not mean busywork or paperwork or straight up hard labor, I mean growing and transforming and surrendering to the Spirit is hard work.

**Slide 9: Heart work…**

When we acknowledge the Name of God Almighty and revere him as such, we immediately have work to do. The almighty should not be trifled with. We need to be putting ourselves on a pathway that leads to a deeper, richer and fuller relationship with God. It’s work. David cut corners. They did not put in the work they needed to properly transport the Ark. God told them back in Numbers how to do it, but they went an easier route that God had not prescribed. Instrad of carting the Ark properly with poles and manpower, they decided to use a more convenient cart and Uzzah paid dearly for it.

What price do we pay for not putting in the work? I have not seen anyone zapped here in church before, but I do think we suffer from missed opportunities, from plateaus in our personal life of faith. And if I am not growing and you are not growing, then when we do come together, we don’t see or experience growth the way we would like to. The concentrate does not seem as strong. What price are you and I paying for not putting in the work? And of course, like David, we get angry and afraid when we realize that our potential is not being reached or our plans and projections are not playing out like we think they should. Worship is work.

By the way, your work can also be worship. Whatever your vocation or how you pass the time, when it is done with a grateful heart and done for the glory of God, your work becomes worship but that is probably another sermon.

Well, after a few months, David calmed down. He had heard that Obed-Edom was greatly blessed because the Ark resided on his property for those months. So David gave it another try. Now look at verse 13:

**Slide 10: 2 Sam. 6:13**

Here they followed protocol. They put in the work! They are carrying the Ark now,

**Slide 11: Picture of processional**

they take six steps and then stop so David can make some sacrifices. Whoa, wait a minute. The king sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. These animals represent that best of the best. It seems that, at least according to 2 Samuel, that the quantity, two animals was probably a pretty easy ask, the passage also says that David himself offered the sacrifice. If we think that through, here we have the king making a bloody mess of himself before God and the people.

The point here is that proper worship is sacrificial.

**Slide 12: “Worship is Sacrificial”**

It asks something of us. Now I grew up in church. I have been a part of a few different denominations. I know the lay of the land. I know how things work, and of course, over the years, I have developed preferences. I want things a certain way and worship is no exception. There is such an easy tendency to walk into church on Sunday morning with an eye out for myself. What will I get out of the sermon? I hope they play my favorite song? I hope there is not line at the coffee shop. I hope they have finally fixed that blue screen in the back! When we see worship as sacrificial, the hopes begin to change: Where can I serve today? What can I do to help? How can I find God in the music and message? Where can my skills and talents be put to good use?

Now Pastor David and I meet throughout the week and we will acknowledge to one another how great the people of this church are. We have been stunned by your willingness to help, your generosity, and the way we as a church can get things done. So I want to commend you as the body of Christ, but we all, myself included, need to make sure that we are entering this place with an intent to give of ourselves and not simply receive. If we come as givers, we will no doubt receive even more. Worship is sacrificial….it costs us something. We worship sacrificially when we give of our money in offerings. We worship sacrificially when we give of our time and talents, we worship sacrificially when we are willing to leave what is comfortable and step into new terrain.

**Slide 13: David dancing picture**

Well, the parade gets started again. The music is blaring the celebrating is intense as they proceed into Jerusalem. And here we have the famous scene where David dances before the Lord. He just dances… He just simply celebrates and rejoices here. How many of you are dancers? I know Silas, my 2 year old is. I have one of his favorite songs on my phone and if I play it, he will get a smile on his face and just start grooving. If I let him go long enough he will begin to disrobe for some reason and begin running around the room. There is something about music and small children. They just love to move to it, and watching them is fun! It truly brings joy! As we get older, we typically do not break out in dance moves too often. Somehow it is not cute anymore. I will admit, even at a wedding reception, I am the guy sitting down at the table steeling myself for the inevitable rendition of YMCA. But here is David, a grown man, dancing with all his might. Verse 16 lets us know that there was leaping involved. David was a great shepherd, warrior, musician, and king but I tend to think we was not a great dancer. His wife Michal oversees his moves and her reaction? She despised him in her heart. Now my wife would probably roll her eyes, she might think I was a little over the top, but if she knew I was leaping in worship before God, I am sure that my wife would support that and maybe come and join me, who knows? But Michal is just disgusted, she was not willing to take part in such a celebration especially one that calls for such…exuberance.

So here comes my final point, and I could maybe say worship is rhythmic or it included bodily motion or that worship is loud. All these things are true of this particular passage, but if we are trying to define the term worship, we need to look to a higher plane. Worship is celebratory!

**Slide 14: Worship is Celeratory!**

It’s a party! It’s acknowledging and thanking God for his love and action. He is good! He has blessed us! We will celebrate! I do not believe God is concerned here about what type of music or location or any such details. Bottom line: are we grateful?

**Slide 15: Are we grateful?**

Are we excited about what the Lord has done? Are we willing to proclaim his greatness?

Now certainly we sing songs that are somber and low-key. David himself wrote some very wrenching psalms. But even these stem from a relationship with God. Knowing God and being known by him is something we can take for granted after a while. But even a prayer that we might scream from the depths of a broken heart entails some sort of relationship with God. Knowing that we can speak with God, in the good times and bad, is a gift and reality that we ought to always celebrate. That’s what a worshipper does, they celebrate!

Let’s finish up our passage here with an exchange between David and his mortified wife. Verse 20:

**Slide 16: 2 Sam. 6:20-22**

David is emphatic…” I will celebrate!” I have no choice! God is good and I must react to his goodness. His goodness is overwhelming! David pays no attention to what other’s might think. He is a bad dancer, he is leaping around like crazy, but his humiliation of himself will be regarded by others. Those joining him is worship of God can see his passion and his love. They view what appears to be embarrassing as authentic worship. David lives with an audience of One. He is concerned only with what God thinks. As he works in his worship, as he gives of himself in worship and as he celebrates in worship, he does so before God and God alone.

**Slide 17: “Worship is…”**

David was a man after God’s own heart, we’ve said that a hundred times over the course of this series. But Being after God’s heart is not some unachievable reality for you and I, it’s a call to dig deep, to work hard, to give ourselves away and to celebrate exuberantly. It’s a call not to passive resignation or to proper church attendance but rather to make our worship an active and integral part of our lives.

God is our only audience and like David, I will celebrate!