

Doing Good Things in Wrong Ways

The Bible is filled with stories of people who wanted to do right but did it incorrectly. Often their mission was one that was good - but they didn't do it God's way.

We want to apply the lessons we learn from these stories God tells us to our lives.

Moses and the delivery of the Israelites from oppression. -- God wanted this to occur but not the way Moses started.

Exo 2:11 One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. 12He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, "Why do you strike your companion?"

Moses and providing water for the Israelites
God wanted Moses to provide water but not the
way Moses decided to do it!

Num 20:8 "Take the rod; and you and your brother
Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the
rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water.
You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the
rock and let the congregation and their beasts
drink." 9 So Moses took the rod from before the
Lord, just as He had commanded him;

10 and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank.

God wanted Moses to provide water but not the way Moses decided to do it!

Num 20:12 And Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.

Uzzah rescuing the Ark of the Covenant
God wanted the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem,
but not the way David decided to bring it.

2Sam 6:2 And David arose and went with all the
people who were with him to Baale-judah, to bring
up from there the ark of God which is called by the
Name, the very name of the Lord of hosts who is
enthroned above the cherubim. 3 They placed the
ark of God on a new cart that they might bring it
from the house of Abinadab which was on the hill;
and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were
leading the new cart.

4 So they brought it with the ark of God from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Ahio was walking ahead of the ark. ... 6 But when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out toward the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen nearly upset it. 7 And the anger of the Lord burned against Uzzah , and God struck him down there for his irreverence; and he died there by the ark of God.

8 David became angry because of the Lord's outburst against Uzzah, and that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. 9 So David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" 10 And David was unwilling to move the ark of the Lord into the city of David with him; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite.

God wanted the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem, but not the way David decided to bring it.

Ex 25:14 "You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark , to carry the ark with them.
15 "The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark ;
they shall not be removed from it.

God had told them what to do. He never told them not to carry the ark on a cart! Uzzah was struck dead because he sought to do something good - to save the ark from destruction- but God destroyed him for his disobedience.

Nadab and Abihu offering sacrifice to God.

Lev 10:1-2 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. (2) And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

God wanted Nadab and Abihu to sacrifice, but not using the fire they used!

Aaron was instructed about the fire he was to take into the holy place

Lev 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of coals of fire from the altar before the LORD, and two handfuls of sweet incense beaten small, and he shall bring it inside the veil

Saul offering sacrifice to God

1Sam 13:9 So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him. 11 But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash,

12 therefore I said, `Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the Lord.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering." 13 Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you, for now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

Under the Law of Moses, animal sacrifices were pleasing to God. They were commanded of God – but His way, not Saul's way!

22 Samuel said, "Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. 23

"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king."

Saul decided his way was better than God's way.
As a result he lost the kingdom for him and his
children.

The work of the church

In the 1850's brethren decided that they could form a society which would collect money from each local church and this would be an easier method to support evangelists (missionaries).

Phil 4:15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

In the 1950's brethren wanted to do a great work and if all the churches would send their contributions to one large church with a fine group of elders, the work would proceed more smoothly.

1 Pet 5:2 shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

There is no authority for the elders of one church to oversee the work of another. There is no catholic (universal) organization for the church. If the elders of one church can oversee the work in another, it can oversee the work in all.

Believers being baptized. This is a good thing – if
it's done God's way.

Some are baptized because Jesus was.

Some are baptized by sprinkling or pouring.

Some are baptized because their sins have been
forgiven.

To be baptized God's way, we must be baptized for the remission of our sins and that baptism will be a burial in water.

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 37 And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Rom 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Are you willing to humble yourself today and obey
God's will?

Do it his way, not yours?

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get
up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on
his name.'