Intro:

A. I have shared with you all the story of the little boy who used to throw himself down and cause scenes with his temper tantrums both in public and in the home.

1. His mother was at her wits end and out of sheer desperation - picked up a hammer and a 6 inch nail and drove it into their kitchen wall. This certainly got the attention of the young boy.

2. After years of tantrums the kitchen wall was filled with 6 inch nail spikes and each time he threw a tantrum because he did not get what he wanted the mother was consistent with driving another nail into the wall.

3. After a few years the boy started having friends over and everyone who walked into that kitchen thought it was a strange way to decorate and asked him why it was so. Embarrassed by this the boy came to the mother one day and said - “Mom can we take those nails out of the wall!” - her answer was “No - but I tell you what every time you behave yourself and show respect and control your temper - we can remove a nail.” To this the young boy agreed because he did not want to be embarrassed anymore (the unintended consequence of his behavior).

4. After years each and every nail was out and the now a teenage boy wanting to date a young lady approached his mother and said - “Mom - all the nails are gone now can I patch up the holes where the nails had been and repaint the kitchen.” --- to his surprise his mother said this ; “Son, you have worked hard on your behavior and have grown up into a fine young man - but no you may not - you see those holes are there to teach us something - the sin has been removed yet the consequences still remain - and this is a valuable lesson as a reminder to us to sin no more.”

5. What a powerful lesson this young man learned - that there are unintended consequences to our behavior and tho’ thru the grace of God and the Blood of His Son we are freed from that burden of sin, it does not mean we are free from the consequences of those sins we commit.

B. In our text this morning - we see such an example - 1 Chronicles 13:1-12 (NKJV) ---- 1 Then David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. 2 And David said to all the assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you, and if it is of the LORD our God, let us send out to our brethren everywhere who are left in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites who are in their cities and their common-lands, that they may gather together to us; 3 and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul." 4 Then all the assembly said that they would do so, for the thing was right in the eyes of all the people. 5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor in Egypt to as far as the entrance of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim. 6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed.

7. So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. 8 Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets. 9 And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.

10. Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. 11 And David became angry because of the LORD'S outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza to this day. 12 David was afraid of God that day, saying, "How can I bring the ark of God to me?"

C. By Definition - “Unintended consequences” are outcomes that are not the ones intended by a purposeful action.

1. Unintended consequences can be roughly grouped into three types:
   a. A positive, unexpected benefit (usually referred to as luck, serendipity or a windfall).
b. A negative, unexpected detriment occurring in addition to the desired effect of the policy or action.
c. A perverse effect contrary to what was originally intended (when an intended solution makes a problem worse).

2. A perverse effect contrary to what was originally intended (when an intended solution makes a problem worse).
   a. Medication - when you listen to some of these AD’s on TV or the radio you wonder whether the disease it is trying to cure will kill you or the medication.
   b. Politics - we see folks desiring a change voting for an elected official - only to find the change they are getting is not what they signed up for.
   c. Child Discipline - sometimes we intend one thing but end up doing something that brings about harsher punishment.
   d. Career choice - how many have changed courses in life because the path they began as young adults is not what they perceived it to be.
   e. Where to live - over my youth we moved every 2 years and it was hard - but choosing a place to live often is not what it all pans out to be.

II. **So The Question is - How do we Arrive at the place we don’t want to Be?**
   A. **Deception - [Eve] - (Gen 3:1-19)**
      1. **Genesis 3:1-19** (NKJV) ---- 1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
      8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” 12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” 14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.” 16 To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: ‘Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”

2. Does anyone, believe Eve was not happy in the Garden of Paradise?
B. **Immediate interest, without considering long-term interests** - [Lot pitching tent towards Sodom] (Gen 13:11)

1. **Genesis 13:11** (NKJV) ---- 11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.

C. **Impatience** - [Abraham, Sarah & Hagar] - (Gen 16:1-12)

1. **Genesis 16:1-12** (NKJV) ---- 1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. 2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the Lord has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. 3 Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. 4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The Lord judge between you and me.” 6 So Abram said to Sarai, “Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please.” And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence. 7 Now the Angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8 And He said, “Hagar, Sarai’s maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?” She said, “I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai.” 9 The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand.” 10 Then the Angel of the Lord said to her, “I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude.” 11 And the Angel of the Lord said to her: “Behold, you are with child, and you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the Lord has heard your affliction. 12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man’s hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.”

D. **Worry / unbelief** - (Number 13,14)

1. The Isrealites stood on the border of the “land flowing with Milk and Honey and said - we can’t”

E. **Secret pleasure** - [David & Bathsheba] - (2 Sam 11; 12)

1. One night of lust - led to heartache - death and disapproval from God.

2. **Presumption** - [David & the ark] - (1 Chron 13; 15) our text of study this morning.

   a. Instead of following God’s Rules - man presumed it would be ok!

F. **Error** - [Jeroboam’s calves] - (1 Kings 12:25-33)

1. **1 Kings 12:25-33** (NKJV) ---- 25 Then Jeroboam built Shechem in the mountains of Ephraim, and dwelt there. Also he went out from there and built Penuel. 26 And Jeroboam said in his heart, “Now the kingdom may return to the house of David: 27 If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah.” 28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, “It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!” 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made. 33 So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.
III. There are lessons we learn from these examples:

A. The consequences of sin are not ONLY experienced by the ones who committed the sin -
   1. Sincerity does not inoculate the sinner & others from the consequences of his/her sin
      a. Ignorance doesn’t prevent one from experiencing the negative consequences of sin -
      b. Secrecy does not prevent others from being negatively effected by sin -

B. That Prevention of worth a pound of cure:
   1. Defend against deception - (Heb 3:13; 2 Pet 3:17),
      a. Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV) ---- 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
      b. 2 Peter 3:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;
   2. Focus on long term, spiritual rewards instead of the passing pleasures of sin - (Heb 11:25)
      a. Hebrews 11:25 (NKJV) ---- 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,
   3. Be patient - wait on God’s promises- (James 1:1-5)
      a. James 1:1-5 (NKJV) ---- 1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. 2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
   4. Don’t worry / trust God - (Matt. 6:19-33)
      a. Matthew 6:19-33 (NKJV) ---- 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. 25 “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

5. Realize we can’t hide anything from God- (Heb 4:13)
   a. Hebrews 4:13 (NKJV) ---- 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
6. **Follow God’s revealed will - (Col 3:17; Jn 4:24)**
   
   (1) **Colossians 3:17** (NKJV) — 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
   
   (2) **John 4:24** (NKJV) — 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

7. **Humbly seek God’s truth - (Matt. 6:33; 15:7-9)**
   
   (1) **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
   
   (2) **Matthew 15:7-9** (NKJV) — 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

IV. **In Conclusion:**

A. We Cannot Act Contrary to God’s Will and Expect a Positive Long-term Result.
   1. It is like holding fire in one hand and expecting not to get burned.
   B. The Only Sure & Certain Course Is to Live Wholly in the Will of God.
   C. Obedience to God in All things and His rich blessings will be supplied to us.

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