

WHEN GOD SAYS NO

2 SAMUEL 7

Text:

Introduction:

This passage describes what were possibly the best days in the life of King David. He was the King of Israel. His nation was united and at peace. David was enjoying a time of rest, after all the problems that he had been forced to endure. For David, these days were a time to meditate and reflect on the blessings and the grace of God. As David meditated on the Lord and the Law, a dream was born in his heart. He wanted to build God a permanent dwelling place.

Since the time the Tabernacle had been built during the days of Moses; God's presence had dwelt in the Holy of Holies of that temporary building. David wanted to give the Lord a proper, permanent place to manifest His glorious presence. The only problem with this dream is that God said "No!" David's reaction to God's "No" is something we should all take to heart.

There are people in this room who have heard the Lord say "No" in your heart. Perhaps there was a dream in your heart to make a lot of money so that you could give to others and to the work of the Lord, but that

dream never came to pass. It is as if God said, “That is not what I have planned for your life. I want you to take a different path.” There are others here who will hear Him say “No” to your dreams in the future.

What do you do when God says “No”? I think David shows us what we are supposed to do when God looks at our dream and says “No, that is not My plan for your life.” Let’s examine this chapter together and consider the lessons that are taught here When God Says “No”.

1. THE DESIRE DAVID EXPRESSED (VS. 1-3)

2 Samuel 7:1-3

¹ And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies; ² That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. ³ And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

A. It Was a Good Desire

As David sat in his palace, he felt guilty that he lived in the lap of such luxury when the presence of God lived inside of a tent. David believed that a God of such glory should have a house befitting His majesty. This was a good desire and David was praised by the Lord for having this dream.

2 Chronicles 6:7-9

⁷ Now it was in the heart of David my father to build an house for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ⁸ But the LORD said to David my father, Forasmuch as it was in thine heart to build an house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thine heart: ⁹ Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son which shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.

The Lord's house and these grounds ought to look the best that they can. When people come here, inside and outside, what they see reveals what we believe about the glory of God. The Lord's house does not have to be adorned with gold and glitter, but this should testify to a passing world that the people who attend here believe that we serve a God Who is worthy of the best we can give Him.

B. It Was a Gracious Desire

David is not asking for anything at this point, his desire is not to receive, but to give. He wants to give something back to the God Who has given him everything.

That ought to be the desire of every Christian today. We could never possibly repay the Lord for all that He has done for us. He has not asked us to! But, there should be a desire within us to see Him honored and glorified, regardless of the cost.

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

C. It Was a Godly Desire

David had no ulterior motives in wanting to build the Lord a house. His desire was to see the Lord glorified and honored. He wanted God to be exalted and he wanted the Lord to receive the glory and honor that He deserved. David possessed a godly desire.

It is good to have a dream! But, we need to be certain that our dreams are from the Lord. While David had a good, gracious, godly dream, his dream was not from the Lord. He is even encouraged to follow the dream by the man of God.

2 Samuel 7:3

³ And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that *is* in thine heart; for the LORD *is* with thee.

But will notice that Nathan didn't even pray about this matter. It sounded good to him, and he thought the dream was of the Lord too. Apparently, David's dream had all the earmarks of a desire impressed upon him by the Lord. But, his dream turned out to be his own creation and not the will of the Lord.

There is nothing wrong with having a dream and a desire to serve the Lord; we simply need to be sure

that our dreams are from the Lord and that they are part of His plan for our life.

2. THE DENIAL THAT DAVID EXPERIENCED (VS. 4-17)

2 Samuel 7:4-17

⁴ And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, ⁵ Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? ⁶ Whereas I have not dwelt in *any* house since the time that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. ⁷ In all *the places* wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar? ⁸ Now therefore so shalt thou say unto my servant David, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I took thee from the sheepcote, from following the sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel: ⁹ And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth. ¹⁰ Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime, ¹¹ And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house. ¹² And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: ¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took *it* from

Saul, whom I put away before thee. ¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. ¹⁷ According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

When Nathan returned home, during the night, God spoke to him and told him to return to David and tell him that his was not of the Lord. God seems to be saying in verses 5-7 that David's dream to build a temple was not from the Lord. It had originated within the heart of David. As I said, the motives were right; but the dream was David's and not God's!

But, when God says "No" to David, He does not just shatter David's dream and leave him with a broken heart. When God says "No", He tempers His no with some very precious words that are designed to soothe the heart of David.

A. It Was Tempered by God's Provisions (vs. 8-11)

Instead of allowing David to give to Him; God turned everything around and gave to David. He reminds David of His great grace in taking him from leading the sheep. God, in His grace, took a 'nobody' and made a 'somebody' out of him.

2 Samuel 7:9

⁹ And I was with thee whithersoever thou wentest, and have cut off all thine enemies out of thy sight, and have made thee a great name, like unto the name of the great *men* that *are* in the earth.

David is reminded that he has been made the partaker of God's rest, God's peace, God's victory and God's power.

**B. It Was Tempered by God's Promises
(vs. 11-15)**

David had a desire to build a house for the Lord; but God tells David that He (God) is going to build David a house.

2 Samuel 7:11

¹¹ And as since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over my people Israel, and have caused thee to rest from all thine enemies. Also the LORD telleth thee that he will make thee an house.

In verses 12-15, God promises David that he will have a son. This son will walk with the Lord and he will be treated as a son by God. He will be established in his kingdom and he will be chastened when necessary. God tells David that this son will build a house for God! Surely these promises brought peace to the heart of King David.

C. It Was Tempered by God's Plans (vs. 16-17)

2 Samuel 7:16-17

¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. ¹⁷ According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

God is saying, “David, you want to build me a house, but I am telling you that I am going to build your house. I will establish your throne forever!” What a promise!

David discovered that our dreams that we have for our lives are not always part of God’s plan for our lives. What can we glean from these verses?

Sometimes God says “No” to our dreams and to our plans. When He does, it is not to defeat us or to discourage us. He does it because He has something far better than we could have ever imagined planned for us.

David thought he would build a temple and that would be the end of it. He found out that it was not God’s will for him to build a temple. He also found out that God had some things planned for his future that he never could have dreamed up on his own.

Some of you have witnessed the death of your dreams. You have watched as life has altered the plans and dreams of your youth. But, I think if you will take the time to look at all the Lord has done through your life, you will see that He had something far better in mind for you than you could have ever dreamed up on your own. God always has the best plan!

In Scotland a family by the name of Clark had a dream: husband and wife with their nine children wanted to

immigrate to the United States. To make that dream a reality, they struggled, scrimped, and saved. Finally they managed to accumulate enough money and obtain all the paperwork they needed to take the trip and begin a new life in a new land. Ship reservations were made and the family was excited.

Then, as often happens, tragedy struck. Seven days before they were to leave the youngest of the children, a little boy, was bitten by a dog. The bite wasn't serious; the doctor stitched the lad up in no time at all. The tragedy was the doctor also had to hang a yellow sign on the Clark's front door. The yellow sign warned everybody to stay away: there was a possibility, a very small chance, that the boy had contracted rabies from the bite of the unknown dog. Their ship was to sail in one week; the family was quarantined for two. They would have to stay behind as their ship, and their dreams, sailed into the sunset.

The father, outraged at what he felt was the unjust, unfair hand that he had been dealt, went down to the pier to stare as the ship set out. Furious at God, frustrated with his son; he cried and he cursed. He stomped home in a foul mood. He stayed that way, too. Then only a few days after his vessel had left port he got word that on April 15th the very ship which was to have brought them to a new life, had been sunk.

The Titanic had gone down. As it disappeared, it had taken with it the lives of over 1,500 passengers. Hearing that news, Mr. Clark's attitude was instantly transformed. Excitedly, enthusiastically, eagerly, he hugged his son. Plainly, powerfully, and prayerfully, he thanked his God. Their lives had been spared. Their tragedy had been turned into a triumph.

Some in this room have watched as your plans for your life have been shattered and broken. You've wondered why God would refuse to allow you to see your dreams fulfilled. Maybe you are disappointed with the way your life has turned out. Let me challenge you to look at what the Lord has done for you!

You may not have gotten all you wanted out of life; but hasn't God given you so much more than you imagined?

3. THE DEVOTION THAT DAVID EXHIBITED (vs. 18-29)

2 Samuel 7:18-29

¹⁸ Then went king David in, and sat before the LORD, and he said, Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? and what *is* my house, that thou hast brought me hitherto? ¹⁹ And this was yet a small thing in thy sight, O Lord GOD; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come. And *is* this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? ²⁰ And what can David say more unto thee? for thou, Lord GOD, knowest thy servant. ²¹ For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou done all these great things, to make thy servant know *them*. ²² Wherefore thou art

great, O LORD God: for *there is* none like thee, neither *is there any* God beside thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³ And what one nation in the earth *is* like thy people, *even* like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to himself, and to make him a name, and to do for you great things and terrible, for thy land, before thy people, which thou redeemedst to thee from Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods? ²⁴ For thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel *to be* a people unto thee for ever: and thou, LORD, art become their God. ²⁵ And now, O LORD God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, establish *it* for ever, and do as thou hast said. ²⁶ And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, The LORD of hosts *is* the God over Israel: and let the house of thy servant David be established before thee. ²⁷ For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. ²⁸ And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: ²⁹ Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken *it*: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

What was David's response to God's "No"? These closing verses reveal that his response was one of utter devotion to the Lord. I believe that these words reveal what our response should be when our dreams are shattered as well.

A. It Was a Humble Devotion

Notice what David did. In verse 18, he went in and "sat before the Lord." In verse 20, like a little child, he referred to himself in the third person. In verse 18, he

acknowledged the fact that he was unworthy of such a blessing. In verse 19-22, David praised the Lord for His blessings, His grace and His wonderful love for His children. David, the mighty king, assumed the place of a humble child before the presence of the Lord.

B. It Was a Holy Devotion

Even though David did not get his way in the matter, he was willing to accept God's plan for his life. His words are filled with praise for the God he loves. Unlike some folks who pout when they do not get their way, David just praised the Lord because He trusted God to know and to do that which is best all the time!

C. It Was an Honorable Devotion

David accepts God's promises and acknowledges God's ability to bring them all to pass. In his prayer, David reveals a heart that is willing to accept God's plan, even though it is not what he originally wanted to do. Note the thrust of David's prayer:

2 Samuel 7:27-29

²⁷ For thou, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee an house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. ²⁸ And now, O Lord GOD, thou *art* that God, and thy words be true, and thou hast promised this goodness unto thy servant: ²⁹ Therefore now let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee: for thou, O Lord GOD, hast spoken

it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

No wonder David is called “a man after God’s Own heart.”

What should our response be when God says “No”? We should first remember that we are who we are and have what we have because of His, perfect grace. We should remember that He is the Potter and we are the clay. We should assume the place of a humble child before His presence and trust Him to do that which is best.

Our goal in life should not be to reach our dreams; but to see His perfect will carried out in our lives. There is no greater honor than being used by the Lord to bring glory to His name, even if isn’t the way we hoped it would happen.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

David was not allowed to build the Lord’s Temple. But, he was allowed to make preparations for the fulfillment of the dream. In 1 Chron. 22:1-19; David prepared all the materials necessary for the construction of the building. In 1 Chron. 28:1-17, David gave Solomon the plans and the instructions necessary to fulfill the dream. So, in the end, David was still a part

of seeing the dream accomplished. It did not happen as he planned it, but he still got to be part of God's plan.

If there is anything for us to remember from this it is this: sometimes you will not see your dreams fulfilled until you are willing to let them go forever. You have to be willing to adopt God's dream as your own. When that happens, you will get to see all your dreams come true!

A poem entitled "Treasures" has something to say about this matter.

One by one He took them from me,
All the things I valued most,
Until I was empty-handed;
Every glistening toy was lost.
And I walked earth's highway, grieving,
In my rags and poverty.
Till I heard His voice inviting,
"Lift those empty hands to Me!"
So I held my hands toward Heaven,
And He filled them with a store
Of His transcendent riches
Till they could contain no more.
And at last I comprehended
With my stupid mind and dull,

That God COULD not pour His riches
Into hands already full.

Do you have some shattered dreams in your life today?
Have things not turned out as you thought they would?
Is there a measure of bitterness in your heart that you
didn't get your way? Wouldn't today be a great day to
bring those shattered dreams before the Lord and let
Him show you how to place those dreams in His hands
and get past the pain of God's "No"?