

2 Samuel 7:18-29

David's Prayer

18 Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?"

19 And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant. Is this your usual way of dealing with man, O Sovereign LORD ?

20 "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD. **21** For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made it known to your servant.

22 "How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.

23 And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt? ^[a]

24 You have established your people Israel as your very own forever, and you, O LORD, have become their God.

25 "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised,

26 so that your name will be great forever. Then men will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And the house of your servant David will be established before you.

27 "O LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying, 'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to offer you this prayer.

28 O Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your words are trustworthy, and you have promised these good things to your servant.

29 Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever."

Introduction

As you know I love context. I get really irritated when I hear a teaching on a Bible passage that ignores the context. You have heard me say many times that a text without a context is a pretext. You should always look to see what the big picture is before trying to understand the passage you have just read.

But today I am going to break my own rules. I want you to close your BiblesI know this sounds strange....but humour me. Close your Bibles. Now while every Bible is closed and every head is raised - there's a variation on a theme.... ask yourself what great event in David's life could possibly have inspired this prayer?

Was it the birth of an heir? Had he just got married again? Were his armies victorious in some distant battle? What could have inspired David to praise with such adoration and gratitude?

The answer to these questions may surprise you. What prompted David's prayer was God saying "No" to something he really wanted. David was an achiever. He did not allow the grass to grow under his feet. When he was not killing Philistines he was writing psalms. When he was not marrying he was building. Even though there were some serious contradictions in his life David had been given more than even he could have dreamed of.

He had risen from a shepherd boy to King of Israel. His nation was united and at peace for the first time since entering the Promised Land. He had bought Jerusalem as his own city and built a palace for himself which was fit for a king.

Yet the restlessness in David caused his thoughts to turn to a building project to outdo anything that he had achieved so far. Since the days of Moses the symbol of God's presence had been housed in a portable tent. David seems to have had a twinge of guilt.

1 Chron 17:1-11.

After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the LORD is under a tent."

2 Nathan replied to David, "Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you."

3 That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:

4 "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in.

5 I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another.

6 Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders ^[a] whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" '

7 "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock, to be ruler over my people Israel.

8 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth.

9 And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning

10 and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue

" I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you:

11 When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.

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; and that is a dream come true!

If there is anything for us to remember from this message 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!

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO"

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."

Sometimes God says "No" to our dreams and to our plans. When He does, it is not to defeat us or to discourage us.

David thought he would build a temple but he discovered 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.

18-29 DAVID'S SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL

What was David's response to God's "No"? These closing verses reveal that his response was one of utter devotion and submission to the Lord. This response reveals what our response should be when our dreams are shattered as well.)

In verse 18, he went in and “sat down before the Lord.” In verse 20, this humility is emphasised, David 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 disciple before the presence of the Lord. Pirkey Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers) says, “1:4. Yossei the son of Yoezer of Tzreidah would say: Let your home be a meeting place for the wise; dust yourself in the soil of their feet, and drink thirstily of their words.” It is this attitude of diligent submission to the wisdom of God that turns disappointment to purpose.

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 people who become indignant or arrogant when they do not get their way, David turned his disappointment to praise. He chose to believe that God was trustworthy. He trusted God to know and to do what was good and just all the time!

Faithful Obedience

We know that this was not always the case in David's life. Before this occasion David experienced serious lapses in trust and obedience. In this instance David gets it right! 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. The thrust of David's prayer in verses **27-29** is “Your kingdom come, Your will be done.” Here David is “a man after God's Own heart.”

What should our response be when God says “No”?

Following David's example we begin by remembering that we are who we are and have what we have because of God's mercy. We should remember that He is the Potter and we are but the clay. We should assume the place of a humble disciple before His presence and trust Him to do that which is best.

Jesus' attitude - John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."

John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven not to do my will
but to do the will of him who sent me."

Paul's attitude – Phil. 1:21. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Our goal in life should not so much to reach our dreams; but to see God's perfect will carried out in our lives.

Application

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"? If there are issues that you would like to come and pray to the Lord about today, bring them to the Lord. He can take what you perceive as a broken dream and use it to bless your life and to bring glory and honor to His name.

Humble Submission

Holy Devotion

Faithful Obedience

Its here that true contentment lies.