

When God Says No
2 Samuel 7
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

Intro: One of the most DISCOURAGING words in the English language is the word No!!/ Most of the time we don't like to Hear it!

A) Kids hate it – *mommy ice cream?* – no Spoil your dinner – really?

Eating ice cream – never spoiled my dinner – light

B) Taking little kids to store can be real challenge { they want everything! Constantly - NO!!

C) A Young man expresses heart to young woman – asks if she feels the same way – she says no – 1) heartbreaking- No is a Hard word to hear!

And it doesn't get any easier in the Christian life

A) Because – we can approach God about things - A dream / a desire/ A hope / Make a request –

He too will at times answer no

B) Been said *God ALWAYS answers our prayers in 3 ways / Yes! Rejoice.*

C) Wait! *Ok - still hope*

1) Now often the waiting answer is just met by silence... no answer = wait

D) We want direction go? Silence. He is saying wait – stand still - That is hard but I can deal with it

But the toughest ANSWER is when God says NO!

A) But I think sometimes GOD has more to teach us from His denials than from His permissions

B) Well here in 2 Sam 7, We see an episode in the life of David where God says - no! Read v. 1-3

“Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies all around, that the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.” Then Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.””

Things were going well for David

A) The nation was at rest – no war – enemies had backed off

B) David's new palace was built – when something began to stir in his heart

C) Why should I dwell in this palace – When the Ark Which = God Presence – dwells in a tent –

1) I will make a house for God

D) So David goes to his friend Nathan the prophet and shares his vision an idea that his has. –

1) this is the first mention of Nathan in the bible

David says Nathan – I want to Build God a house – I want to build a temple for God.

A) Nathan – thinks it is a wonderful idea and tells *David do all that is in YOUR heart- God is w/ YOU*

B) Nathan's reply was a reasonable one – but the problem was Nathan didn't consult God-

1) He didn't Pray

C) That is an easy mistake to make when Something seems like a great idea to you

1) and from a practical sense it makes all the sense in the world

SO Nathan makes a mistake here by not praying with David about his desire – but that night God corrects it! RD V.4 – 7

“But it happened that night that the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying, “Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about with all the children of Israel, have I ever spoken a word to anyone from the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd My people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’ ” ” ”

A) So the First thing that God tells Nathan to tell David – is I have never asked Israel to build me a house!

B) I have been content to dwell in this TENT – the Tabernacle

C) Now 1 Chronicles 17:3-4 adds a little more insight to this conversation

1 Chron 17:3-4 – more clear ³But it happened that night that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, ⁴“Go and tell My servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: “You shall not build Me a house to dwell in

A) God says No David you shall not build me a House

B) Now that must have been really difficult for David to hear.

1) David’s dream to do something special for God – gets DERAILED

C) Here is what is really interesting – At this time God didn’t give David an explanation of why?

1) God just said no I don’t want you to do that

D) It would be years later that the Lord would reveal the reason why in 1 Chronicles 22:8 – David has shed too much blood.

E) The Temple is to be a place of Peace – can’t have bloody hands build it

Here is the first thing I think the Lord would have us learn today about when he says No

A) He Doesn’t always say why.

B) I have had many occasions in my life – when I have wanted to do something for God –

C) I have had right motives – I see the need – I want to be a part of the Solution –

1) Lord Can I do this – be involved there?

D) God has said – No - WITH NO REASON. – Just a hard fast No

E) In those times in my life – found comfort in Isaiah 55:8-9

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.”- Isaiah 55:8-9

God’s thoughts are not my thoughts – God’s ways.....Ways

A) His thoughts His ways – Are HIGHER

B) God is Sovereign and I need to trust him. – He knows what he is doing

C) So initially God just tells Nathan to tell David – No – I don’t need a fancy house to dwell in

Now was God saying it was wrong for David to want to do this?

A) No not at all – In fact a temple was always in God’s plan for the people of Israel

B) The Temple in Jerusalem plays a major role in the end times prophetic picture.

C) The temple MT in Jerusalem is the most highly contested piece of real estate in the world today.

1) So it was always in God’s plan

Years later Solomon would say these words about his Dads Desire to build a temple.

2 Chronicles 6:7-9 –⁷Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ⁸But the LORD said to my father David, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart. ⁹Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.’

A) Note that Phrase – You did well in that it was in your heart.

B) Somewhere after this moment in 2 Samuel 7 God communicated to David – that was a good desire

C) Your heart was in the right place – what you wanted to do for me was Good.

⁹Nevertheless you shall not build the temple, but your son who will come from your body, he shall build the temple for My name.’

Here is the 2nd thing the Lord wants us to learn today about when he says No

A) Sometimes it is the right idea just not the right time or the right person.

B) Wrong time: Paul really wanted to take the Gospel to Asia – but we read in Acts 16 – the HS – forbade him

C) Strong language – like the Lord put up a major road block and ended up sending Paul to Philippi first

D)God ended up doing an amazing work in Philippi – and established a church there that ended up
1)helping support Paul in later missionary endeavors

But Paul would eventually go to Asia – and land in Ephesus – a major city where God did a major work.

A)Paul stayed 3 yrs in Ephesus his longest Assignment –

B)And we are told that from Ephesus the gospel spread throughout all of Asia

C)Right idea – right Desire – Asia – Wrong time

Sometimes it isn't just the wrong time it is also the Wrong Person

A)God didn't want David to build the temple- but he would have his son Solomon build it

B)I have experienced this personally as well.

C)In 1990 I sensed God was calling our family to go and plant a church in Oregon.

I wasn't sure where he wanted us to go there – but I was drawn to Corvallis and amazing College town. –

A)I was doing College and YA ministry here

B)Joe B and I drove up to check it out – Amazing – open doors connections

C)I had this sense God wanted to do something amazing there.

Called before – No CC's in Corvallis – get there discover there was

A)He encouraged us to go somewhere else – MY SENSE – NOT GOING TO MAKE IT

D)God ended up sending us 45 min North of Corvallis

1)Pretty soon families were making the drive to our church – Sunday's and Wednesdays -

2)Midweek was hard – would you do a midweek here?

Pastor is leaving – will you help us find a Pastor – Called Rob V.

A)He was the right man at the right time – God has done a major work

B)50 Acre Campus – Host the yearly CC conference I just spoke at

1)Massive impact on the college – 300+ students weekly

C)Rob V was the right Rob for Corvallis – As I think about why the Lord didn't send us there

1)He knew he was going to bring me back here a year after Rob & Susie moved there.

D)He has been pastoring there 30 yrs – Me 29 here –

1)in the last few years the Lord has opened a door for me to come back to Corvallis – serve

So Sometimes God says no – because it is the Wrong time or the wrong person.

A)3rd thing we learn from this story – when God says no – He usually has something better in mind.

B)Watch how this story transpires – God says no to David – you can build me a house –

1)but then God says – but listen to what I am going to do for you. V.8

“Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts: “I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth. 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; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the Lord tells you that He will make you a house. “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’ According to all

these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.”

God’s response to David is known as the Davidic Covenant

A)It Simply states that God was going to establish David’s kingdom forever

B)Though it has direct application to David’s son Solomon who would build the temple

C)It has a far reaching application to Jesus who would come from David’s lineage – his seed/

1)Through Jesus David’s descendant – God will establish an everlasting kingdom!

WE are waiting for the return of Christ getting closer

A)Now The family of David did rule over Israel for more than 400 years – but was eventually removed for evil deeds

B)Sad commentary – in book of Kings concerning the descendants of David: *So and so did not follow in the ways of King David*

C)So David’s family was eventually removed from ruling

But through the prophet Isaiah God promised a future restoration to the Davidic line on the Throne

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”- Isaiah 11:1-2 NKJV

A branch shall grow out of the roots of David – and establish an everlasting Kingdom

A)Jesus is that Branch – He is going to come one day – and set up his Kingdom – that will never end

B)So David says – I want to build you a House – God eventually has Solomon build it –

1)That house would end up being torn down by the Babylonians

C)Later rebuild by Herod the Great – torn down by the Romans in 70 AD

God says to David- I am going to build you a House – a Kingdom that can never be destroyed – Your Line – a King will rule FOREVER

A)Lessons here: #1 You can never ever – out give God.

B)We can think our tithe our 10% is a big deal – God says –

1)I will open heaven and pour out blessing on you – More than you can even receive

C)The 2nd lesson in this God says no – He usually has something better in mind.

D)Sue and Denise – Denise and Jim story

1)Denise and I celebrated 39 yrs last month – She fits me – like a hand in a glove

God knew – She would be perfect for me and me for her

A)After 39 yrs we are still madly in love – She is still my best friend

B)She is still my favorite person to be with in the whole World.

C)God had a better plan than me. – His Grace

Notice David’s response to God Grace in his life

A)1st David is Humbled – V.18-19

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: “Who *am* I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? ¹⁹ And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come.

B)David says: Who am I O Lord – I don’t deserve such blessing –

C)Guys that is what Grace is – Getting what you don’t deserve. – God loves to show Grace.

G.K. Chesterton *The world is not lacking in wonders, but in a sense of wonder.*

D)David is blown away by the Faithfulness and Uniqueness of God

2nd Response: David exalts God for his uniqueness and faithfulness

Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?

A) Not how men act – they don't show Favor like this to people who don't deserve it

B) David's estimation of himself – only Magnifies the grace and Greatness of God.

C) I think one of the things that can hinder people from experiencing God's blessing is a sense of entitlement

1) Like they deserve Blessing from God

D) God loves to bless us – “Good pleasure to give you the Kingdom” – but we don't deserve any of it –

David is blown away by the Uniqueness of God's grace and character

A) David proceeds to exalt God for his faithfulness to David and to Israel

20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord God, know Your servant. 21 For Your word's sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. 22 Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, YOU ARE IT according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? 24 For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.

David goes back to the beginning – God taking the people of Israel out of Egypt and making them a great nation

A) Nothing desirable about Israeli people

B) God chose them and made them a great nation to magnify his greatness

C) Take the foolish things of the world to confound the wise

D) God called them to Himself – called them into special relationship

Through the Nation Israel his Savior – His Messiah would come to bless the entire world

A) Bring Salvation to the entire world – make a way sins forgiven – guilt removed

B) So we could be CALLED TO HIMSELF – His Special people

C) That is the heart of God for you today

David's 3rd response to God's grace is he is going to lean hard into this promise.

25 “Now, O Lord God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said.

26 So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The Lord of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. 27 For You, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.

28 “And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant. 29 Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord GOD, have spoken *it*, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”

David essentially says – Let it be so!

A) Not because I am great or I deserve this -but so that your name can be magnified forever.

B) Lean into the Promise – Promise Believers –

1 Corinthians 1:20 – All the promises of God are yes and Amen in Christ.

C) He wants to shine in you = Magnified in your life

D) Lean into the promise of God – Lord do with me what you want to – anything –

1) So that you can be magnified

So this is what we have learned today - When God says No:

1. He doesn't always say why.

2. Sometimes it is the right idea, just not the right time or maybe the right person.

3. God usually has something better in mind he wants to do.

One more thing: When God say no – you can't do that Do what you can do. 2 Chronicles 29:2-3

¹Furthermore King David said to all the assembly: "My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced; and the work is great, because the temple is not for man but for the LORD God. ²Now for the house of my God I have prepared with all my might: gold for things to be made of gold, silver for things of silver, bronze for things of bronze, iron for things of iron, wood for things of wood, onyx stones, stones to be set, glistening stones of various colors, all kinds of precious stones, and marble slabs in abundance. ³Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver:

God says no David you can't build me a house – but your son one day will

A)David decides I am going to do whatever I can do

B)He draws up the plans – he gathers all the materials for the temple

B)When God says No – don't get bummed – discouraged – don't sulk – don't quit –

1)don't say – Well I am not doing anything then

C)When God says no to you in one thing – DO WHAT YOU CAN

Can't serve in that area – well perhaps you can serve in this one

A)Do what you can- Where can I serve

B)Lord I think I would be a perfect fit for this thing – the Lord says – No I want you over here.

C)You do that and you will be blessed – beyond what you could ever even imagine.

Taught at the CCBC for 20 yrs – Had the chance to train many future pastors –

A)Some who would join our staff.

B)After 18 yrs God closed that door – Said no – not this year – and wouldn't teach again

C)God opened up a new door – one I enjoy even more – training not future Pastors –

1)but existing ones – through the cohorts – like even more

I really enjoy speaking at a Pastors Conference – like I did this past week in Oregon and CR

A)But you know what I enjoy even more is the cohort – 4-8 guys over the course of 3 days –

B)LOVE IT - Pastors need encouragement – love to do that

C)Or sitting down with some of our younger pastors – ALL DAY LONG

D)GOD SAYS NO – DO WHAT YOU CAN – you will be blessed!