

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
WHEN GOD SAID “NO” TO DAVID’S PLANS-PT 1
2 SAMUEL 7:1-17; (cf. 1 CHRONICLES 17:1-15)

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Introduction

This passage describes what possibly were some of the best days in the life of King David.

He had been the King for some 15 years at this point.

His nation was united and at peace. (By the LORD’s help, his enemies had been subdued!)

David was finally enjoying a time of rest, after all the problems that he had been forced to endure.

For David, these days were, no doubt, a time to reflect and meditate on all his blessings and all the grace he had received from the LORD.

As David sat in his nice palace and meditated on the Lord, it appears that he was gripped with conviction that he lived in a nice house, but the Ark of the LORD still dwelt in a Tent. Maybe He felt as though he had neglected his priorities. His house was built, but the LORD didn’t have a house! So a desire was born in his heart. He wanted to build the LORD 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 desire is that God said “No!” to his plans. David’s reaction to God’s “No” is something we should all take to heart.

Has the LORD ever told you “No” after you had a desire in your own heart? I know that certainly has happened in my own life. I even remember a time when the LORD had to reiterate the “No” a number of times before I got it! (I can be a little slow sometimes!)

Well, what do you do when God says “No”? I believe we can learn from the life of David! We have the benefit of viewing what he did when God looked at his desire and said “**No, that is not My plan for your life.**” That’s what we want to look at tonight.

I. DAVID’S DESIRE EXPRESSED. (Vs. 1-3)

A. David’s Desire Was A Good Desire!

In fact, later, David’s son, Solomon said this in *2 Chronicles 6:7-9* *7 Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD God of Israel: 8 But the LORD said to David my father, **Forasmuch as it was in thy heart to build a house for my name, thou didst well in that it was in thy heart;** 9 Notwithstanding thou shalt not build the house; but thy son who shall come forth out of thy loins, he shall build the house for my name.*

David believed that a God of such glory should have a house befitting His majesty. That was a good desire and David was praised by the Lord for having that desire!

(BTW: The LORD’s house and these grounds ought to look the best that they can for the LORD. 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 it 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! Further, how we treat this place reveals a lot about how we see the LORD!

B. David’s Desire Was A Gracious Desire!

David was not asking for anything in return, his desire was not to receive, but rather to give. He wanted to give something back to the God Who had given him everything!

(BTW: That ought to be the desire of every true believer today. We could never possibly repay the Lord for all that He has done for us. And 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* “*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*”

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C. David’s Desire Was A Godly Desire!

As I said, Scripture doesn’t show any ulterior motives in David wanting to build the Lord a house. His desire was to see the LORD glorified and honored. He wanted the LORD 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 spiritual desires! Amen! But, we need to be certain that even our spiritual desires line up with the LORD’s will for our life! While David had a good, gracious, and godly desire, his desire was not from the LORD. Yet, he was encouraged to follow his desire by the man of God. (vs. 3)

That goes to show you that even the man of God can’t always tell you what the LORD’s will for your life is in certain areas! Of course we notice that Nathan didn’t pray about this matter or even encourage David to pray about this matter!

It sounded good to him, and he thought the desire was of the LORD too. Apparently, David’s desire had all the earmarks of a desire impressed upon him by the Lord. But, his desire turned out to be his own creation and not the will of the LORD.

Thank God for any desire to serve the Lord! There is nothing wrong with having a desire; we simply need to be sure that our desires are from the LORD and that they are part of His plan for our life.

When our desires are from the LORD, they will come to pass! When our dreams are merely our own, they will likely come to nothing!

DAVID’S DESIRE EXPRESSED.
Good, Gracious, Godly.

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II. DAVID’S DENIAL EXPERIENCED! (Vs. 4-17)

When Nathan returned home, during the night, God spoke to him and told him to return to David and tell him the words of this vision. Part of which was that his desire to build the LORD a house was not part of what the LORD had plans for him to do..

His motives were right; but the desire was his own and not God’s!

But, when God said “No” to David, He didn’t just shatter David’s dream and leave him with a broken heart. When God said “No”, He tempered His “No” with some very precious words that were designed to soothe the heart of David.

A. It Was Tempered By God’s Provisions! (vs. 8-11a)

Instead of allowing David to give to Him; God turned everything around and gave to David.

The LORD reminded David of His great grace is taking him from leading the sheep. In His grace, the LORD had taken a nobody and made a somebody out of him! **(vs 9)**

Then Nathan was to remind David 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/Plans! (vs. 11b-17)

David had a desire to build a house for the LORD; but the LORD told David that He (the LORD) was going to build David a house! Not a building, but a lasting legacy **(vs. 11b)**

Then in **verses 12-15**, the terms of what we know as the Davidic Covenant are given. God promised David that he would have a son. This son would walk with the Lord and he would be treated as a son by God. He would be established in his kingdom and he would be chastened when necessary.

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But God also wanted David to know that this son would fulfil this desire he had to build a house for God! Surely this brought a matter of satisfaction to the heart of King David to know that his desires would be fulfilled by one of his sons!

But God didn’t stop there. (vs. 16-17) He told David, that his throne would be established forever! What a promise!

David discovered that the desires we have for our lives are not always part of God’s plan for our lives.

Conclusion

So, What can we glean from these verses?

Well, sometimes God does say “No” to our desires and to our plans!

But 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.

If you have a heart for the LORD like David and maybe have witnessed the death of some of your own dreams and desires. Take heart! God’s plan for us is always best for us and is better than what we could think up on our own!

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

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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 signed 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.

If you have watched as your desires and plans for your life have been shattered and broken. No doubt you’ve wondered why God would refuse to allow you to see your desires fulfilled. Maybe you are disappointed with the way your life has turned out. Let me challenge you to look back at what the Lord HAS done for you!

You may not have gotten all you wanted out of life; but hasn’t God been good and gracious in giving you so much more than you imagined in His Salvation in your soul and through what He has done and is doing in your life?

Remember that when God says “No” to your desires and plans, it is because He has something far better in mind for you! That was David’s discovery!

That was the experience of others in Scripture as well. Next week, LORD willing, we’ll see David’s response to all this!