

2 Samuel 7 - Thursday, January 8th, 2015

- Three weeks ago, we left David finally bringing the ark of God to Jerusalem only to find himself in a terrible marital argument with his wife.
- However, undeterred, David settles in after being anointed king over all the tribes of Israel for the first time since his father in law Saul was.
- As we'll see now, David will have a respite of sorts, which one might imagine he would sorely need as he settles into his newly built house.

1 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, 2 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." 3 Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

- Couples of thoughts here right out of the chute the first of which is we're told it was the Lord Who had given David rest from all his enemies.
- To me, this speaks to how it is that the Lord knows how much we can bear up under, and in so doing, will often times give us a time of rest.
- The problem with this is that in today's driven and fast moving ASAP culture, this is frowned upon and seen as laziness and complacency.

- Another thought is concerning the contrast between what sounds like a high-end custom-built luxury home of cedar and the tent tabernacle.
- Here's what I'm thinking, David is having considerable difficulty getting used to this luxurious mansion that had basically been gifted to him.
- The reason being is he's been virtually homeless for a number of years, and going from rugged caves to a beautiful home isn't an easy do.

F.B. Meyer of this said, "It was a remarkable contrast to the shelter of Adullam's cave."

According to the historian, Josephus, not only was David's palace magnificent in size and splendor but it's estimated that all the gifts and tribute David would eventually be the recipient of may have totaled the modern day equivalent of over one billion dollars.

- This brings me to a third thought, which is David's heart for the Lord, not turning away from the Lord, after he's been prospered by the Lord.
- I'm of the belief, and I've personally experienced in my own life that God will not give us more adversity or prosperity than we can handle.
- In other words, God knew David could handle such prosperity, and it's evidenced by David's gratitude in wanting to give back to the Lord.

4 But it happened that night that the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, 5 "Go and tell My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: "Would you build a house for Me to dwell in? 6 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. 7 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?"' "

- At first read, one might come away with the impression that David was somehow wrong in his desire to build God a house for Him to dwell.
- However, upon closer examination that's absolutely not the case. In fact it's the opposite that's true, as we'll see at the chapters conclusion.
- Be that as it may, it seems, at least for now anyway that God is content with a tent, as it were. As such, it's neither David nor the time for it.

Charles Spurgeon - "Though the Lord refused to David the realization of his wish, he did it in a most gracious manner. He did not put the idea away from him in anger or disdain, as though David had cherished an unworthy desire; but he honored his servant even in the non-acceptance of his offer."

G. Campbell Morgan - "It is of the utmost importance that we should ever test our desires, even the highest and holiest of them, by His will. Work, excellent in itself, should never be undertaken, save at the express command of God. The passing of time will always vindicate the wisdom of the Divine will."

- There's something else here that's also not easily seen at first read and it has to do with the Prophet Nathan telling David to go and do it.
- Clearly, the prophet was wrong, but it doesn't make him a false prophet, it simply means he made an honest mistake in what he told David.
- The point being is that we should always be careful when it comes to setting our foot to do that which God has not expressly called us to.

- I find it interesting that while God had neither called nor commanded David to build the temple, David wasn't dejected when God said, "no."
- I point this out for two reasons the first of which is when God says "no;" He does so that He might say "yes" to that which is infinitely better.
- Such was the case with David, as we'll see shortly, which is actually the lesson of the text, namely, God's no's can become His better go's.

- The second reason I find it interesting has to do with what David does after he's the recipient of a no from God to his desire to do for God.
- Let me explain, in 1 Chronicles 29 we're told that David collected the materials for building the temple, even though his son would build it.
- This speaks to David's heart for God and David's heart after God, such that, he didn't make God's "no" an excuse for doing nothing at all.

Again, F.B. Meyer said it best this way, "If you cannot have what you hoped, do not sit down in despair and allow the energies of your life to run to waste; but arise, and gird yourself to help others to achieve. If you may not build, you may gather materials for him that shall. If you may not go down the mine, you can hold the ropes."

- One last thought before we move on to verse eight. Here-to-fore, God has not explained to David the reason he's not to build the temple.
- The truth of the matter is that it would be many years later that David would learn that the reason why was that David was a man of war.
- According to 1 Chronicles 22, the Lord tells David he had shed much blood and made great wars, and it was to be built by a man of peace.

- Here's where I'm going with all of this, David was okay with God's no for many years. In other words, God saying "no" was good enough.
- I imagine that David's mindset was never that of, God owes me an explanation. This because, God is God, and God can just say no to me.
- There's no disappointment with God, there's no disenchantment with God, and perhaps more importantly, there's no disobedience to God.

Quoting F.B. Meyer who, once again say's it best, "...David possessed his soul in patience, and said to himself, 'God has a reason; I cannot understand it, but it is well.'"

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. 9 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. 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; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, 11 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. 12 "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. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 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. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' ' 17 According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

- You'll forgive the simplicity with which I say this but it's as if God is telling David instead of you building me a house, I'll build you a house.
- Isaiah 11 tells us that out of the "stump" of Jesse, God would raise up a new branch, speaking of Jesus Christ that reigns forever and ever.
- Woven into the fabric of the Christmas celebration, which we just had is this promise of God to David recorded in the book of Isaiah 9:6-8.

Isaiah 9:6-8 (NKJV) — 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Charles Spurgeon of this wrote, "The joy which filled David's bosom was a spiritual one, because he knew that Jesus would come of his race, and that an everlasting kingdom would be set up in his person, and in him should the Gentiles trust."

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. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? 20 Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant.

- I don't know if you caught this but when David says, "what more can I say to You?" It seems as if he's actually finding himself speechless.
- The reason I mention this is because it's David we're talking about here. This is the sweet Psalmist of Israel who magnificently pens words.
- And now, he's at a loss for words. How is this possible? I would suggest that it's because of the profound nature of what God has done.

- It's important to keep in mind that this promise of God to David will not be realized until eternity future. This is not for David's here and now.
- Once again this speaks to David's heart in the sense that he's okay with all that God has promised to do not being realized in the present.
- In other words, David would have to look forward to God's promise through faith and in spite of this, he remained content in the present.

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, 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. 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."

- The chapter ends with what could arguably be amongst the most beautiful prayers in all of the Bible, as David prays to God from the heart.
- One thing that becomes abundantly clear in David's prayer here is it's all about that which is characteristic of both whom and how God is.
- More specifically, the grand goodness of God. The point being is sometimes prayers from the heart, about God's heart, blesses our heart.

I'll close with one final quote from Charles Spurgeon, "Not to say this prayer, but to pray this prayer. There is great force in the expression. Some prayers are never prayed, but are like arrows, which are never shot from the bow. Scarcely may I call them prayers, for they are such as to form, and matter, and verbiage, but they are said, not prayed. The praying of prayer is the main matter."