

BIG PROBLEMS? BIGGER GOD!

Part 12: The PROBLEM of BROKEN DREAMS

INTRO: Someone said, “Life is a series of appointments.” Included in these are disappointments and dreams that don’t come true. Believers are not immune from broken dreams. Paul wanted to go into Asia but God said no. Jesus prayed, “Let cup of cross pass,” but God said no.

Though described as “a man after God’s own heart,” David knew broken dreams: Saul’s hatred, Jonathan’s death, a baby son’s death, family incest and more. Maybe David’s greatest came in 1 Chron. 17 (2 Sam. 7).

I. DAVID’S BROKEN DREAM (1 Chron. 17:1)

- A. *Domestic Peace:* David lived in a beautiful palace made of cedar. The kids were growing up. All was well on the home front.
- B. *National Peace:* National calm was uncommon for Israel. The age-old battle with surrounding enemies was quiet for now. The golden ark of God was safe in Jerusalem.
- C. *Heart’s Desire:* David has a dream. He sees the disparity between his permanent structure and the temporary transient tent that housed the ark of God. All David had to offer the God who had been his protector and provider all these years was a tent – fabric, poles and some rope. This ate at David. He loved His God deeply and desired a dwelling place for God. He wanted to build his God the most spectacular temple in all the world. His heart is in the right place. Too many of God’s people have built their own houses of cedar but have forgotten their commitment to God – not David.

II. NATHAN’S HASTY APPROVAL (17:2)

No sooner had David had his dream that he shared it with Prophet Nathan. Nathan hastily and prematurely encourages David to go for it. Nathan gets ahead of God and soon he has to eat his words and retract his approval. Even God’s prophets can speak too soon.

III. GOD’S PERSONAL INTERVENTION (17:3-15)

- A. (vv. 3-4) *Divine denial:* With no explanation (comes later) God refuses to let David’s dream come true. God did affirm David for his desire (2 Chron. 6:7-9).
- B. (vv. 5-15) *Future plans:* David desired to build God a house. God had a better idea – to build David a house. A dynasty that would lead all the way to Christ Himself! David had a great idea; God had a better one! God establishes a Davidic covenant. David’s dream would live on but not be realized until after David was gone.
- C. “Why did God dash David’s dream and disappoint him?” 1 Chron. 22:6-8; 28:2-3. God had called David to be a battler not a builder. It was David’s job to complete the conquest, not the temple.

IV. DAVID’S HUMBLE RESPONSE (17:16-27)

Undoubtedly, disappointed over God’s no, what did David do?” How did he respond? When disappointments come, how we respond is the most important thing. David did two things:

A. He WORSHIPPED his God (vv. 16-27)

He wasted no time nursing disappointment. He “went in and sat before the Lord” (v. 16). Several things to note in his worship:

1. He reflects on *God’s goodness* in his life (vv. 16-20). He didn’t complain over his disappointment of what he couldn’t have; rather he thanked God for all he did have.
 2. He reaffirms God’s *faithfulness* to the nation Israel (vv. 21-22).
 3. He accepts God’s *sovereignty* (9 times “O Lord” – Adonai – sovereign One).
 4. He expresses his total *surrender & submission to God’s refusal* (10 times “Your servant”)
- B. He WORKED at completing the conquest, gathering materials, organizing workers, drawing plans, and gathering an offering for the Temple he’d never build (22:1-5). He didn’t get mad, sulk, quit, jealous, he got busy and moved on with what God had told him to do.

“WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM DAVID?”

1. *Some dreams are from God, some are not.* Just because we have a plan that even others may approve doesn’t mean it’s God’s will.
2. *When God says no, He has a greater yes in mind.* Sometimes when we have an idea, God may have a better one. Broken dreams are not a rejection but a re-direction.
3. *Sometimes, we get to know the reason for our broken dreams, sometimes we don’t.* But know this – God does have a reason for every denial.
4. *When dreams die, our response is critical.* We must remain humble, thankful and totally submitted to God. 2 Sam. 15:25-26
5. *When dreams die, choose not to focus on what you have been denied, rather on all you do have and what you can do.* If God is in control, no such thing as a broken dream.

CONC: Had a dream dashed? For some achievement, job, relationship, ambition, etc. Disappointed? Broken dreams don’t have to shatter us. How did you respond? Did you get bitter, angry, rebellious.....? Did you whine or go to work? Did you sulk or seek God? What do you do and where do you run when God says, “No?” David ran and sat before the Lord. Some need to do this today. You need to stop aching over some unfulfilled dreams. Let it go and focus on what the Lord wants to do in your life.