

Session 16

DAVIDIC COVENANT

2 Samuel 7

Memory Verse

He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

– 2 SAMUEL 7:13, CSB




Davidic Covenant


THEOLOGICAL THEME: Even when we think we are honoring the Lord, we must trust His plans and timing over our own.

CALL TO ACTION: Repent and believe in Jesus Christ, the descendant of David, for the forgiveness of your sins.

Most people recognize the importance of dreams and goals. If you google a question about the value dreams and goals have in our lives, you will find more responses than you could read. Some say dreams and goals are so valuable that when you stop dreaming about the future and setting goals, your life will suffer.

The difference for Christ followers is that when we set goals or dream about the future, we are not to consider only our desires but to primarily consider God's desires. We have a heavenly Father who has good plans for our lives and wants to bless us in extravagant and glorious ways when we trust Him and choose to live in the power of His Holy Spirit daily. Today we will see an example of how David needed to trust God even over his own desires to honor God.

 What is a dream or goal of yours that has been changed as you have grown over the years?

 What is one way your life has been influenced by one of your dreams or goals?



How does trusting the Lord enable us to dream bigger?

Session Summary

Sometimes Christians have great ideas of ways to glorify the Lord. However, no matter the intention, it is a problem when we fail to consult the Lord about our plans. Just because something is a good idea doesn't necessarily mean it is part of God's will. David had great plans to build a permanent house for the ark of the covenant. When God denied David's request, David could have become upset, angry, or even depressed. Instead, David trusted the Lord and submitted to His plans.

God didn't reject David as a person even though he was not the right person to build the temple. Just because God says no to us doesn't mean He is rejecting or denying us personally. But we can always trust that His plans are better than ours. We can respond like David in prayer and thanksgiving as we humbly accept whatever God wants to bring our way.

1. David's Offer (2 Samuel 7:1-7)

David was living in an expensive, beautiful home, but when he looked around at all the furnishings he enjoyed, it bothered him that the house of the Lord consisted of tent curtains. David had the good intention of honoring the Lord by establishing a more permanent dwelling place for God's presence.

David proposed to build a permanent structure for the tabernacle. God had provided the plans for the tabernacle while the Israelites wandered the wilderness, so it would be portable. To this point, the Lord had not instructed anyone to modify the tabernacle into a permanent structure. But now that Jerusalem had been established, it made sense to David to build a permanent house for the Lord.

The prophet Nathan heard what David proposed to do for God, and it sounded good and reasonable to him, so he encouraged the king to do what was in his heart. But even if something is a good idea or makes sense to us, it may not line up with God's plans. There was nothing wrong with David's idea theoretically, and it is clear his heart was in the right place. But this serves as a reminder that we should always pray and seek the Lord instead of trusting our own hearts and minds, even when we want to do something *for* the Lord.

? When have you seen the truth that a good thing meant to honor God may not always be God's will for that time or place?

? What does this teach you about submitting to God's will and wisdom in every area of life?

God called Nathan out for encouraging David without consulting God first. Just because something is a good idea doesn't mean it lines up with the will of God or the timing of God's plans. We will see how God encouraged David about next steps even as He rejected David's proposal to build a temple. God's plans are most important and every detail matters, including when, where, who, and how.

? Application: What is God teaching you about the timing of His plans for your life?

2. God's Response (2 Samuel 7:8-11)

God responded by recounting where it all started for David: as a shepherd for his father's sheep. God took David from the pasture to the throne with a lot of life lived along the way. Even though it was God's plan for David to succeed Saul as king, there was nothing easy about the process or the years that occurred between the anointing as a shepherd boy to his crowning as king.

Why is it valuable to remember God's past work in your life?

The Lord reminded David how He had protected David from his enemies over the years. God had been with David and cut off the enemies that had come against him time and time again. God had been faithful to David throughout the years and this moment was no different. Though God rejected David's plan, David would end up where God desired him to be.

When was a time you felt God saying no to one of your plans? How did you respond? What is challenging about these moments?

David was also reminded that God was the One who made his name great. It was the Lord that brought David to the most powerful position in the land, and it was the Lord who gave David power and influence.

In further affirmation, God promised David two things. God promised that under David's reign He would establish a permanent and secure Israel. David had shown concern for the welfare of his countrymen and the adversity they had already endured as they fought for a place to reside.

God also promised to build the house of David. God would establish a legacy for David, and his family would endure long after he was gone. While David's offer was denied, God promised to honor David by building him a "house" that would be more glorious than anything David could have planned for God. While we don't learn God's reasoning for denying David's request in this passage, God explained in 1 Chronicles 22:8-10 that David had been a man of war and God desired that a man of peace lead in building His temple. Sometimes we don't know the reasoning behind a decision by the Lord, but we can always trust that He knows and will do what is best.



Application: Where is God calling you to trust Him over your own desires and plans?

3. David's Reply (2 Samuel 7:12-17, 28-29)

After promising to establish the house or dynasty of David, the Lord gave specifics of what that meant. Because David succeeded Saul instead of any of Saul's family, there was no precedent for a family monarchy. God promised David that his own offspring would sit on the throne after him. This was an important aspect of the legacy God promised for the house of David.

Regarding building a permanent dwelling place for the presence of the Lord, God promised that David's descendent would take the throne and be the one to build the temple. As part of His promise, God told David not only would his descendent build the temple, but God would also have a special relationship with this future king. If David's descendent sinned, God would not cut him off as He did Saul. Rather He was going to chasten and discipline him without rejecting him like a father to a son he loves. This reminds us of what it means to be loved by God.




How have you experienced this kind of love from the Lord and how does it affect the way you love others?

David was assured of the role his family would play in leading Israel for generations to come. Solomon would be the son chosen by God to take over and build the temple following the reign of David. Although God didn't specify which of David's children He was speaking about, David was confident of what God promised. David could move forward in confidence, trusting God's promises over his own hopes and dreams. Though God spoke about David's immediate descendant, His words also pointed to David's ultimate descendant, Jesus, who would establish His throne forever.

How did God's plans for David surpass David's plans for God?

David received this powerful promise as a gift from the Lord. In verses 28-29, David responded in trust of the Lord. David's prayer that followed this interaction shows the humility of the king as he continually referenced himself as "your servant." As king of Israel, he had every precedent to demand, command, and expect everyone else to submit to him.


The way that David willingly and humbly accepted the rejection of his idea from the Lord and accepted the promises of God regarding the future displayed his humility and heart for the things of God. It is easy to think because we have an idea to bring glory to God, we should immediately put it into action. The reality we learn from David is that we must recognize our own weakness and need for God and then willingly submit every aspect of our lives to Him as we trust His plans over our own.

 **Application: How will you be more intentional about willingly and humbly submitting to the will of God in your life?**

Conclusion

The more we grow in relationship with the Lord, the more we want to honor and please Him. David came up with a plan to bring honor to the Lord and it seemed right and good. But God rejected David's plan to build a temple as a permanent residence for the ark of the covenant. God would eventually approve the building of the temple, but not in the way and timing David suggested.

Instead, the Lord turned David's request into a promise encompassing his family for generations. God established the Davidic Covenant that ensured a legacy for this man after His own heart. His "house" would be a royal lineage that would eventually bring about the Messiah. Even though God said no to David's plan, He simultaneously said yes to even greater things for David and his family throughout the generations. That promise now extends to Christ followers, including us.

 Where do you need to trust the Lord with your plans, even if it means they get denied or changed?

 How does a posture of humility ensure that we don't miss God plans while pursuing ours?

 How might submitting to God's plans over your own give you greater opportunity for gospel conversations with others?

Memorize

He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

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