

I. ME

- A. Welcome/Online/Vision/So what about...?
- B. Elections—some of you didn't get what you wanted... heard a great big NO from your neighbors.
- C. I hate NO... I hate saying it and I hate hearing it.

D. Youth Job

- 1. But I was going to "SERVE GOD"!!!!

II. WE

- A. God often seems to say NO to really good things
 - 1. Marriage/Kids/Job/School/Ministries/Health
 - a. All to do good things FOR God or for the world.
 - 2. Me and the LOTTERY
- B. Ordinary response?
 - 1. Complain/Give up trying/Mope/Anger/Question His love and goodness---
 - a. Like my kids- "You're boring"
 - 2. Wonder Why NOT!?
 - a. Am I doing something wrong? Why not me? Does God care?
 - 3. Blame God
 - a. Why won't you help me? You got me into this mess, NOW what am I supposed to do?
- C. Funny thing is what we want right now is not what we will want later...
 - 1. Ex-boyfriend/girlfriends
 - 2. Jobs
 - 3. **Me- Air Force Pilot**

D. Our good intentions don't always align with God's great plans.

- 1. What we want TO DO FOR GOD is not always what He wants FOR US.
- 2. And if we hang on to the good we wanted... we'll never get the great God wants to give.
- E. This message will also hopefully dispel one of the most common and biggest misconceptions about God and Xianity
- F. Look at King David from 3000 yrs ago... got a lot of NO's from God.

III. GOD (2 Samuel 7:1-16)

- A. Background
 - 1. David anointed king over all of Israel
 - 2. Reunites 12 tribes of Israel
 - 3. Subdues the surrounding enemies
 - 4. Neighboring king makes him an awesome palace made out of cedar and stone.
 - 5. Brings the Ark to Jerusalem
 - a. Symbolized God's presence with His people
 - b. 10 commandments/Jar of Manna/Aaron's Rod
 - c. Priests would sprinkle sacrificed blood once a year to atone for sins of Israel
 - d. Very symbolic... very big deal.
 - e. Puts it in a tent (tabernacle) as it's always been done
 - f. And takes a break.
 - 6. Peaceful time.

B. V. 1-3

1. David looks around... "I'm living in this palace and the symbol of God's presence is in a tent? We gotta fix this... we gotta do something better FOR God. "
2. Seems like a good idea... a very humble and pious/religious idea.
3. Nathan thinks so too.
4. God is so great, given us all this stuff, let's build him a house too. Keep him happy maybe?

5. We ordinarily try to repay or bribe God with religious duty and ritual.

- a. When someone does something kind to you, you think you need to return the favor- we often transfer that idea to God.
- b. Nothing wrong with being thankful
- c. But God isn't looking for you to do something for him

C. V. 4-5

1. God- "NO. You're not the one who's gonna do this."
2. David must be thinking- "What do you mean NO?! Don't you realize how good of an idea this is?"
3. What's wrong with me why don't you love me enough to let me do this for you?
4. What's wrong with you God?

5. It takes courage to trust God's goodness when you don't like His answer

D. V. 6-7

1. God- "You're sweet. But when did I ever ask for that?"
2. "I'm not looking for some great token of your religious devotion."
3. "It's a nice idea but totally unnecessary."
4. Not on his agenda... has something more important in mind.
5. Takes David down memory lane to show how He has taken care of David before David ever did anything for Him.

E. V. 8-9a (before you.)

1. David was sitting in a palace, with the crown on his head, his enemies are all defeated... and God reminds him of where he came from...
2. "I gave you all of these things before you ever did anything for me."
3. "Why would that change now?"
4. God said NO... but reminded David that He loves him and can be trusted.
5. "In fact", HE says, "I'm going to do even more for you..."

F. V. 9b

1. Who had heard of David before this series?
 - a. Interesting
 - b. Can you name another king from 3000 yrs ago?
 - c. King Tut doesn't count b/c he's only famous b/c of his tomb and all the gold and treasure inside.
2. Why? This promise.
3. God keeps his promises.

G. V.10-11a (all your enemies.)

1. Gives them peace...
2. But there's more...
3. "You wanted to build me a house but..."

H. V. 11b-15

1. Solomon- Even when he sins... and he sins big.
2. David dynasty lasted 400 yrs.
3. Avg. Egyptian 100 yrs.
4. Current English Windsor dynasty- 101 yrs.
5. Then the final kicker

I. V. 16 (highlight forever)

1. "David you wanted to build me a house that's cool."
2. "Your son will... and it will be great and one day it will be nothing more than a few big stones."
3. "The house I'm building you will last forever."
4. God's goodness/gifts far outweigh what we could ever imagine doing for Him.

J. This forever thing though...

1. Forever?? Who's the king of Israel now? Doesn't have one.
2. David is king for 40 yrs.
3. Despite civil war and splitting the tribes, Jerusalem doesn't fall for 400 yrs
4. Babylonian Exile
5. Return rebuild
6. Conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 BC
7. Conquered by Romans in 63 BC
8. Then around 1 AD... **Matt 1:12-16**

K. Summary

1. David wanted to do something good for God.
 - a. Noble/Pious
2. But God had a greater plan.
3. God cared more for his relationship with David, and doing something for David and the world, than he cared about David's religious deeds.

4. **God prioritizes relationships over religion.**

IV. YOU

- A. And whether Xian or not... I think that's where we miss it.
 1. We feel like we have to prove to him how much we like him or somehow earn his favor by doing good.
 - a. Expand
 - b. That's "religion!" Xian or otherwise- Our attempt to reach GOD (whatever version) by impressing Him/It with our piety/rituals/religious duty/positive vibes
 - c. Doing enough good so our bad is ignored... never knowing for sure where we stand... That's Karma

2. God has said NO to all of that... His ultimate NO.

a. **John 6:28-29**

b. Paul expanded it... **Eph. 2:8-9**

3. **Chill out! Relax!-- God doesn't want anything from you. He wants something for you.**

4. A perfect relationship with Him, those around us, a satisfying full life.

B. **What Jesus did...**

1. Proved how much God was for us...
2. Died for us **before** we were for him. Before we did anything to earn anything good from Him.
3. **God's most shocking No is Jesus.**

- C. No more trying to earn it. No more uncertainty about where you stand b/c it doesn't depend on you.

- D. We don't have to do anything FOR him

1. When he tells us No... we can trust there is a better plan b/c He proved how much He is for us.

2. His NO is not b/c He's mad at us, doesn't care about us, is uninterested or unimpressed.

3. His NO is b/c He has something better.

E. **So when God says NO remember...**

1. **What He's done.**

2. Like God did with David...Look back on what He's done for you...

a. Crucifixion/Good things in your life/Good things in other's lives

b. Nothing about earning or deserving... just b/c He loves.

3. **What He's promised.**

- a. Just like to David... He's made promises that apply to us too.
- b. **Matt. 6:25-27**
- c. **Matt. 7:7-8/John 3:16/John 6:37**
- d. He is for you. He is with you. And you can't do anything to change that.
- e. God keeps His promises.

V. WE

- A. So **what if** when God says No...
 - 1. Whether it's to something great we want to do for Him
 - 2. Or simply NO to getting to spend the money on something you want rather than on your stupid brakes and transmission...
 - 3. What if... We stopped and reminded ourselves of what God has done and what he has promised?
 - 4. He can be trusted and he loves us. He is for us.
- B. What if we had the courage to let go of our ordinary efforts to make God happy... and simply accepted His love?
- C. What if we had the courage to stop hanging on to what we can do for Him and just trusted what He's already done for us?
- D. What if we trusted His NO to our good deeds/efforts?
 - 1. **Shipwreck**
 - 2. Takes courage to let go of what we think we need to do FOR Him

E. Defy the ordinary- Trust God's NO.

VI. COMMUNION-

- A. Let's remember what He's done.
- B. And what he's said to do in response is to Do THIS in remembrance of me.
- C. Not a smoky incensy mystical religious thing... but a tangible way to remember and say thank you.