**Good Things and the Authority of God**

*2 Samuel 7:1-7*

**Introduction**

1. **2 Samuel 5:9-12** – David had been anointed king over all Israel, had taken the city of Jerusalem, and had a house built for him. God’s favor was abundant toward David for the sake of Israel.
2. **2 Samuel 7:1-2** – It is during a period of ***“rest”*** that David was dwelling in his house, and perceived a great injustice concerning the comparison of his dwelling and God’s. (Spoke to Nathan the prophet.)
	1. **(v. 3)** – Nathan seemed to agree with David, and thought it a good idea that he build God a house – temple.
	2. **(vv. 4-7)** – Later that night, God spoke to Nathan and told him that He did not authorize the building of the temple.
3. **Even though Nathan was a prophet of God, he merely assumed God would approve rather than taking the time to see whether He actually did.**
4. ***Nathan was wrong, and made assumptions based upon his feelings about the matter. Sadly, many make this mistake today, failing to understand the nature of God’s authority.***
5. **Why did Nathan assume this would be pleasing to God, and God would approve? 🡪**
6. Good Things
7. Good Man (David was a good man.)
	1. ***“The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14*** – Samuel to Saul speaking of David).
		1. David was a man who sought the will of God, and loved Him dearly.
		2. **Nathan knew David was such a man.**
	2. **Before Goliath:**
		1. ***“When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine [Goliath], they were dismayed and greatly afraid” (1 Samuel 17:11).***
		2. **1 Samuel 17:45-47** – David had great faith that God would bring victory, and understood it was ultimately to His glory.
	3. **Temple proposition:**
		1. **2 Samuel 7:1-2** – Can almost hear the disgust in his voice. What an injustice!
		2. **Mindset of David – Psalm 8** – What is man?!
			1. **Note verse 2** – God uses men as feeble as infants to bring victory against His enemies.
			2. David would fit this description well.
			3. **God used a mere shepherd boy to defeat the Philistines, and many more after that. Then made him prosper in many ways, but God still dwelt in a tent?**
		3. **His thought? – GOD DESERVES FAR GREATER THAN A MERE TENT!**
	4. **Just because a man is good does not mean that all he does will be pleasing to God.**
		1. **Jeremiah 10:23** – God directs our steps.
		2. **No matter how good a man may seem to be, he will not get far without God’s direction**.
8. Good Idea (The temple was a good idea.)
	1. **2 Samuel 7:12-13** – God through Nathan to David – If it weren’t a good idea, God would not have it transpire in the future.
	2. **Fulfilled partially** *(there is an ultimate, more complete fulfilment of this)* **with Solomon:**
		1. **1 Chronicles 22:6-10** – David took God’s words as a promise directly relating to his son Solomon.
			1. **Solomon** – *shel-o-mo' –*  *peaceful*.
			2. **(vv. 8-9)** – Not that David’s bloodshed was unauthorized, but God’s desire was for His house to be built by a man of peace in a time of peace.
		2. **Cf. 1 Kings 5:3-5** (Solomon to Hiram king of Tyre) – God did not want His house to be built in a time of war and bloodshed, **but after such, which was necessary to further establish David’s throne as promised. It would be a place of peace built in a time of peace.**
	3. **The idea was good, but the timing was not, and God did not authorize it.**
		1. **Proverbs 14:12** – Way that seems right.
		2. *The way of death can be the end of a good idea if it is not subject to God’s authority* – ***“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it” (Psalm 127:1a).***
		3. ***A good idea without the authority of God produces spiritual death, but a good idea with the authority of God is pleasing to Him.* OUR LIFE DEPENDS UPON GOD.**
9. Good Results (The building of a house for God would yield good results.)
	1. The temple, like the tabernacle, would represent the dwelling place of God – although more permanent. (God is with them.)
	2. It would serve as a reminder to them of their relationship with the Lord. (Holiness)
	3. **Cf. Psalm 122** – The approach to God in worship in the Temple would be considered a joyous privilege to those of God’s people.
		1. **The temple would offer a feeling of closeness to God.**
			1. Some would later conflate the presence of the temple with the approval of God – **cf. Jeremiah 7:1-4**.
			2. However, limited to God’s intentions for it, it would be beneficial to the people.
		2. **It would benefit greatly those in Israel.**
	4. **Even though the idea would yield good results as we look to the future of the temple’s existence, it would not be a good thing since the Lord did not authorize it.**
10. The Authority of God
11. Is necessary to please Him.
	1. **1 Samuel 15:22-23** – Samuel to Saul after Agag spared.
		1. Saul was told to slay all the Amalekites, including their livestock.
		2. However, he disobeyed God, and saved some animals to sacrifice to God.
		3. **BUT GOD DESIRES OBEDIENCE – Sacrifice, even with good intentions, is not acceptable if it is not authorized.**
	2. **Colossians 3:17** – Whatever we do or say must be authorized by Jesus!
	3. **Why? Cf. Isaiah 55:8-9** – God’s ways and thoughts are higher. ***They are wiser, and more effective in every way!***
	4. **Consider God’s response to David’s proposal (cf. 2 Samuel 7:12-16):**
		1. The promise was partially fulfilled with Solomon and his temple, but there was a greater point being made.
		2. ***“Forever”*** – not simply for an indefinite period of time, but FOR ALL TIME.
		3. **Cf. Acts 2:29-32, 34-35** – This was ultimately fulfilled in Christ when His kingdom was established.
			1. The promise could not be fulfilled to the greatest degree in any ordinary man – for death defeats all men.
			2. However, Christ conquered death.
			3. ***“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).***
			4. David had in mind a physical temple that could be destroyed, but God had in mind a spiritual temple that not even death could destroy – ***“you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5).***
		4. **God’s ways are higher than ours, and we must appeal to His will to please Him.** *(David did not come close to comprehending God’s plans!)*
12. Must be established.
	1. **Hebrews 8:5b** – Just as Moses, we are to make all things according to the pattern.
	2. ***“Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:13).***
	3. **1 Corinthians 2:16** – We can only know God’s will, the pattern, through His revelation – His word.
	4. **GOOD MEN can come up with GOOD IDEAS that appear as though they would yield GOOD RESULTS, but anything that is not authorized by God cannot possibly be GOOD – i.e. pleasing to Him. 🡪**
13. Institutionalism is not authorized.
	1. **Good men have come up with the seemingly good idea of supporting charitable organizations with the Lord’s funds with the intention of producing good results.**
	2. **Church support of human institutions is not authorized:**
		1. **James 1:27** – Pertains to the individual.
		2. **Romans 15:25-26** – Benevolence only for needy saints.
		3. **1 Timothy 5:16 (Care for widows)** – Even within the church, the benevolence is limited.
	3. **This is also applicable to other areas like “sponsoring churches,” church sponsored meals, church run schools, etc.** (*Good People, Good Idea – not inherently wrong, Good Results – but the end does not justify the means.)*

**Conclusion**

1. Just because something may be considered by us as good does not make it authorized by God.
2. We must understand the nature, and importance of authority.
3. **If God has not authorized it, then we ought not be doing it!**