

## Doing Good with Obedience

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Lesson: II Samuel 7

What thing that you have makes you the most proud or gives you the most delight? Is it a stereo set or walkman? Is it a doll or a dress? Is it roller blades or a bicycle? Is it a toy truck or teddy bear? Whatever your favorite possession is or has been, have you ever thought of giving something like it to your parents, or to the Lord?

We read this morning about how King David had been given peace by the Lord. There was no need to fight at that time, and so David could enjoy his house, which was made of costly cedar wood. One day he told Nathan the prophet that he thought it would be good to build the Lord a nice house, too, because the Lord's ark only had curtains to dwell in. At first Nathan said that would be a good idea, and that the Lord was with David. But that night, the Lord told Nathan that he had never asked anyone to build a house for the Lord. He had always lived in that special tent which is called the tabernacle. Do you remember how beautifully made the tabernacle was? It was made with gold, silver and bronze, with acacia wood and with fine linen and other special materials. It was no ordinary tent, but rather a tent that represented heaven and the Lord Himself.

The next thing the Lord told Nathan was that it was the Lord who had made David king. David had been a shepherd boy, and the Lord made him ruler of His people Israel. The Lord had given David victory over his enemies, and had given the people of Israel the Land of Canaan to live in. The Lord said, further, that He would build David's house, meaning that the Lord would make many of David's sons, grandsons, great grandsons and other descendants to be kings over Israel long after David was dead. They would be like the Lord's sons. If they did wrong, the Lord would punish them so that they would do good once again. When David was told these things by Nathan the prophet, he said a very long prayer of thanks for all that the Lord had done for David.

Isn't that interesting? David had started out by thinking that the Lord needed a nice house like the one David had. He ended up realizing that it was the Lord who had given David all that he had, and that the most important thing was to be grateful to the Lord, and to ask the Lord to bless him some more. I find this so interesting because we tend to think that the Lord wants the things we want. If we want others to notice us and think well of us, we suppose that this is what the Lord wants most. If we want certain things, we think that

giving such things to the Lord will please Him. But we cannot give the Lord anything to make Him happy, because all things come from Him to begin with. What makes the Lord happy is to give us things, especially heavenly things, because He wants us to be truly happy. So let us be like King David, and thank the Lord for all that He has given us. Let us be obedient to the Lord and learn from His Word frequently, so that we can receive His heavenly gifts of love and wisdom. Let us be corrected by the Lord when we have said or done things that are wrong, so that we may become His children, and be blessed by Him.

*Amen.*

(Goes with Haggai 1 Sermon)

*Prayer II*

We thank You, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the blessings You have given us: not simply our possessions and our families, but especially for the knowledge of Your Word that leads us to heaven, and for the love that makes us part of Your heavenly kingdom. Deliver us from the evil to which we incline and lead us to love to hear Your Word and to obey its laws. Live within our minds and hearts, O Lord, and establish your kingdom there.

*Amen.*