

Request Denied

Text : **Deuteronomy 3: 18-29**

INTRODUCTION :

A. What's the greatest disappointment of your life ?

1. We can all remember things we wanted as a child, but did not get.
 - a. Pony
 - b. Motorbike
 - c. Make the team
2. Do you remember how you reacted when Mom and Dad said “no ?”
 - a. Resentful (Sulk, Pout, Rebel)
 - b. Felt parents were against you -or- inept “*They just don't realize ...*”
 - c. The more you wanted it the harder the refusal was to accept.

B. Do you remember how it felt when :

1. When that girl you thought you wanted to spend the rest of your life with said NO ?
2. When the bank refused to give you a loan on the house of your dreams ?
3. When they gave that promotion that you had worked so hard for to someone else ?

C. Rejection is a part of life.

1. It is something we all have to learn to deal with.
2. No one can get everything they want out of life.
 - a. Parents don't have the ability to give children all they desire.
 - b. When there is only one job available and six people want it, five are disappointed.
3. Often it's not good for us to have some things we want. (*Motorcycle illustration*)

D. The ability to accept disappointment is a mark of maturity.

1. We train our children not to have tantrums when they do not get what they want.
2. Some adults still have tantrums, but learn to conceal them.
 - a. Try to drown disappointment in a bottle.
 - b. Reach in an “*I'll show you.*” attitude. (*String of affairs after breakup ... pg by jerk*)
3. The mature accept lost and move on.

**We've all prayed for things that we did not get; often things we felt strongly about.
How do you deal with it when God says no ? Let's look at four biblical examples.**

I. Though Moses pleaded with God, God refused his greatest desire.**A. Moses was a very special person. His relationship with God was unique.**

1. **Exod. 33: 11-** Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. ...
2. **Deut. 34: 10-12** Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹ for all the signs and wonders which the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, ¹² and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

B. Moses was a very special person in the history of Israel.

1. It was through Moses that God freed Israel from Egyptian bondage.
2. It was through Moses that God gave His law and formed Israel into a nation.
3. But for the intercession of Moses, God would have destroyed Israel. (**Ex 32:10**)
 - a. **Deut. 9: 13-14** The LORD spoke further to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed, it is a stubborn people. ¹⁴ 'Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'
 - b. More than 20 times Moses interceded to God on Israel's behalf.
 - c. Though God spoke through Moses, Moses remained humble.
Num. 12: 3- Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.

C. For forty years Moses was patient and forbearing with an obstinate people.

1. They continually murmured and complained against God and against Moses.
2. There were even times when they went into open rebellion.
 - a. **Numbers 12** ... Miriam and Aaron
 - b. **Numbers 16** ... Korah

D. In 40 years Moses lost his patience one time and it cost him his earthly future.

1. **Read ... Numbers 20: 1-13** (Cf. - **Exod. 17: 1-7**)
 - a. Immediately following the death of his sister.
 - b. Emotional and personal attacks on him by the people.
2. Moses failed to give God proper respect and it cost him his place in Canaan.
Vs. 12- But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

3. In forty years Moses had ONE emotional outburst and it cost him Canaan.

Vs. 12- Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock.
And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall **we** bring
forth water for you out of this rock?"

E. In our text, Moses plead with God to give him just a little while in the land.

1. **Deut. 3: 23-25** I also pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying, ²⁴ 'O Lord God, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours? ²⁵ 'Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.'

2. There are consequences for sin.

a. In Christ, one can be forgiven, but he still has to suffer the consequences.

b. Though the sin was committed years before, the consequences remained.

c. **Rom. 6: 23-** The wages of sin is death ...

* **With God all time is now. Thus, he never forgets.** (*Time doesn't mitigate.*)
Attorney's try to "age" a case so people's memory fades.
God's memory never fades because it is always as if it just happened.

3. Succeeding good works don't mitigate the consequences of the offense.

a. This was the only blemish in forty years of service.

b. God Himself commended the faithfulness of Moses.

Num. 12: 7- He is faithful in all My household;

4. God is no respecter of persons.

a. Moses had a very special relationship with God, but suffered consequences.

Num. 12: 6-8 He (God) said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. ⁷ "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, even openly, and not in dark sayings, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant, against Moses?"

b. Moses was the first one referred to as "The man of God." **Deut. 33: 1**

F. Moses accepted God's refusal without negative reaction.

1. When God said "NO" Moses had to have been disappointed, but he did not argue.

2. He faithfully trained his replacement. (*Joshua*)

3. He accepted the loss of earthly ambitions, but gained Heaven.

- a. Moses appeared to them on the Mt. Of Transfiguration. **Matt. 17: 1-3**
- b. Elijah was with him and he had been taken by God. **II Kings 2:11**
- * **Thus, Moses left us an inspired example of how we should accept a “no” to prayer.**

II. We have examples of others who accepted God’s denial of their requests.

A. David was forbidden to build the temple.

- 1. **I Chron. 17** ... Time doesn’t permit us to read this whole chapter, read it at home.
 - a. David asks to be allowed to build the temple and is told yes by the prophet.
 - b. God refuses David’s request because David has spilled too much blood.
- 2. **I Chron. 22** ... David embraced God’s decision and committed to it with zeal.
 - a. He began to prepare materials for the temple.
 - b. He charged his son to build the temple and got him publically committed to it.
- 3. **I Chron. 29** ... Before David died everything was ready for Solomon.
- * **Thus, when David’s plan differed with God’s plan, David yielded to God plan.**
(*Don’t spend your life wanting God to do what you want to do. Accept His will.*)

B. The Apostle Paul was told no when he asked God to heal his body.

- 1. **II Cor. 12: 7-10** **Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me — to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸ Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰ Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.**
- 2. God had used Paul to heal many people. (cf. - **Acts 28: 8-9**)
- 3. Paul was asking to be done for him what he had done for others.
- * **Thus, when God’s denied Paul’s request, Paul accepted that it was best for him.**

C. Jesus prayed for relief, but accepted God’s will for His life.

- 1. Jesus knew that God heard and answered His prayers. (cf.- **John 11: 42**)
- 2. Jesus prayed with extreme intensity.
Luke 22: 41-44 **And He withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt**

own and *began to pray*, ⁴² saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”
⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

- a. Jesus knew the pain and suffering He was about to face.
 - b. He was not a masochist who enjoyed pain so He had great dread and fear.
- * **Thus, Jesus accepted God’s denial of His request because He knew it was necessary to accomplish God’s plan to save you and me.**

III. How do we apply these examples to our own lives ?

A. God always answers every prayer.

- 1. We have all experienced His generous blessings in response to our prayers.
- 2. He sometimes says later ... just be patient. (*Okay to ask again.* **Luke 18: 1-8**)
- 3. Often He says something different would be better for you.
- 4. Some requests are simply denied.

B. How should we respond when God says NO to our request ?

- 1. It is never appropriate to respond rebelliously.
 - a. God is sovereign so He has the right to say no.
 - b. Pouting and whining reflects spiritual immaturity.
- 2. We don’t know why God says no, **but we know God.**
 - a. God is love and He loves us so much He gave His Only Begotten Son.
 - b. Man must trust His Heavenly Father to have his best interest at heart. **Rom. 8:28**
- 3. A person of faith will humble himself before the sovereign God of the universe.
 - a. God has an overriding plan for each person, each nation and you specifically.
 - b. You do not have access to all the information about God’s plan. (*servant*)
 - c. God does not owe you an explanation as to why He does what He does.

CONCLUSION :

I Pet. 5: 6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, ⁷ casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

Lesson Text :**Deuteronomy 3: 18-29**

18 “Then I commanded you at that time, saying, ‘The LORD your God has given you this land to possess it; all you valiant men shall cross over armed before your brothers, the sons of Israel. **19** ‘But your wives and your little ones and your livestock (I know that you have much livestock) shall remain in your cities which I have given you, **20** until the LORD gives rest to your fellow countrymen as to you, and they also possess the land which the LORD your God will give them beyond the Jordan. Then you may return every man to his possession which I have given you.’ **21** “I commanded Joshua at that time, saying, ‘Your eyes have seen all that the LORD your God has done to these two kings; so the LORD shall do to all the kingdoms into which you are about to cross. **22** ‘Do not fear them, for the LORD your God is the one fighting for you.’

23 “I also pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying, **24** ‘O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your strong hand; for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do such works and mighty acts as Yours? **25** ‘Let me, I pray, cross over and see the fair land that is beyond the Jordan, that good hill country and Lebanon.’ **26** “But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me; and the LORD said to me, ‘Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter. **27** ‘Go up to the top of Pisgah and lift up your eyes to the west and north and south and east, and see *it* with your eyes, for you shall not cross over this Jordan. **28** ‘But charge Joshua and encourage him and strengthen him, for he shall go across at the head of this people, and he will give them as an inheritance the land which you will see.’ **29** So we remained in the valley opposite Beth-peor.

Supplementary Text :

Numbers 20: 1-13

1 Then the sons of Israel, the whole congregation, came to the wilderness of Zin in the first month; and the people stayed at Kadesh. Now Miriam died there and was buried there.

2 There was no water for the congregation, and they assembled themselves against Moses and Aaron. **3** The people thus contended with Moses and spoke, saying, "If only we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD! **4** "Why then have you brought the LORD'S assembly into this wilderness, for us and our beasts to die here? **5** "Why have you made us come up from Egypt, to bring us in to this wretched place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, nor is there water to drink." **6** Then Moses and Aaron came in from the presence of the assembly to the doorway of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to them; **7** and the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **8** "Take the rod; and you and your brother Aaron assemble the congregation and speak to the rock before their eyes, that it may yield its water. You shall thus bring forth water for them out of the rock and let the congregation and their beasts drink."

9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD, just as He had commanded him; **10** and Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock. And he said to them, "Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" **11** Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came forth abundantly, and the congregation and their beasts drank. **12** But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given

them.” ¹³ Those were the waters of Meribah, because the sons of Israel contended with the LORD, and He proved Himself holy among them.