

Saying No To God

Text : **Mathew 10: 28-42**

INTRODUCTION :

A. When people pray for something and they don't get it :

1. Some are disappointed to the point that they feel God let them down.
2. Some begin to doubt God when He doesn't give them what they want.

B. Have you ever thought about what God feels like when men say no to Him ?

1. We know God feels emotions.

a. Wrath or Anger

Col. 3: 5-7 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. ⁶ For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷ and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.

Ezra 10: 14- Let our leaders represent the whole assembly and let all those in our cities who have married foreign wives come at appointed times, together with the elders and judges of each city, until the fierce anger of our God on account of this matter is turned away from us.

b. Sorrow or Regret

Gen. 6: 6- The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

I Sam. 15: 10-11 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." ...

c. Joy (God's response to the repentance of Israel.)

Zephaniah 3:17- The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

Isa. 62:5- And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

*** Thus, it is clear that the action of men affect the heart of God.**

2. Men sulk, but have no charge against God when He doesn't grant a prayer request.
 - a. God does not owe us anything. (*We are debtors to Him ... life, earth, all.*)
 - b. In the relationship, men are always the supplicants.
3. God reigns completely sovereign over all mankind.
 - a. God gives us life and then sustains our lives.

- b. Whether we submit to or rebel against Him, **God owns us.**
- 4. Though absolutely sovereign, God is not a tyrannical ruler.
 - a. He proved His love by making a great sacrifice to save us from eternal suffering.
 - b. He even cares for those who hate him. (**Matt. 5: 45**)
 - c. So why would people rebel against God and defy His reign over them ? **They do.**

C. You may respond, “*I would never tell God no.*”, but **YOU DO, we all do.**

- 1. God wants our hearts totally devoted to Him.
- 2. God wants for us to pro-actively cause others to glorify Him.
- 3. God wants us to be totally committed to His goal of saving His lost sheep.

**There are many other ways in which people say no to God,
But we will limit this study to these three ways.**

I. God wants for all men (*especially Christians*) to be totally devoted to Him.

A. God has every reason to expect all men will be devoted to Him.

- 1. God created this world and all that is on it. (*God is the source of us.*)
 - a. **Gen. 1-2**
 - b. **John 1: 3** (Cf.- Heb. 1: 1-2 ; Col. 1: 16-17 ; etc.)
- 2. God owns the world, we are just tenants on it.
 - a. **Psa. 89: 11**- The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours;
The world and all it contains, You have founded them.
 - b. **Lev. 25: 23**- The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently,
for the land is Mine; for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me.
- 3. God's ownership includes mankind.
 - a. **Psa. 24: 1**- The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it. (*Some don't concede His ownership.*)
 - b. **Acts 17: 24-28** The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is
Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with
hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He
needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and
breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every
nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having
determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their
habitation, ²⁷ that they would seek God, if perhaps they might
grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each
one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist,

4. Sadly, even many Christians view their life as their own.
 - a. This is rebellion against God.
 - b. **I Cor. 6: 19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

B. This means Christians are doubly indebted to God

1. Christians are ransomed from Satan. (*Were God's – rebelled – bought back*)
 - a. Satan uses sin to capture man and lead him off into perdition.
 - b. Jesus ransomed Christians ... He purchased them back from Satan.
I Tim. 2: 3-5 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, *the man* Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.
2. Christians saved from the consequences of their sins.
Rom. 5: 9- Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

C. When God demands that this temporary life be surrendered to Him, many say NO. (*Even many Christians refuse to surrender to Him.*)

1. Satan propagates the lie that Christianity should be an important part of life.
 - a. Jesus will never be a part of anyone's life.
 - b. When one is "**born again**" Christianity becomes his life.
2. Trying to hang on to control of one's life is rebellion against the owner of life.
 - a. **Luke 9: 23-24** And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily** and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.
 - b. **Gal. 2: 20-** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

II. God requires that we do things to cause others to glorify Him. (*emph. on "do"*)

A. All that Jesus did on the earth was done to glorify God ... NOT Himself.

1. **Matt. 15: 31-** So the crowd marveled as they saw the mute speaking, the crippled restored, and the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

2. Typically, His miracles resulted in the people glorifying God. (**Luke 5:25, 13: 10ff**)

B. Christians are commanded to glorify God by their daily activities.

1. The command to glorify is not satisfied just by :
 - a. The evil we abstain from doing.
(*Christians must not sin, but we must also be pro-active in our service.*)
 - b. The beliefs that we have in our hearts.
2. We must **DO** things that cause people to glorify God. (*Must be witnessed to glorify.*)
 - a. **Matt. 5: 16-** Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.
 - b. **I Pet. 2: 12-** Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation. (*Christ = "See my disciples."*)
3. We must remain cognizant of how each action affects people's perception of our God.
I Cor. 10: 31 - Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

C. There are many ways to glorify God in our bodies. (*As opposed to in spirit / heart.*)

1. **I Cor. 6: 20-** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. (*This context = moral purity.*)
2. Benevolent deeds can cause people to glorify God.
II Cor. 9: 13- Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ and for the liberality of your contribution to them and to all,
2. People being converted causes God to be glorified.
Gal. 1: 22-24 I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; ²³ but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy."
²⁴ And they were glorifying God because of me. (*Changed life*)
3. Each Christians is free to find ways to use his own abilities to glorify God.
Are you glorifying God or are you sitting on HIS throne in your heart ?

III. God requires that you be committed to His goal, i.e., the salvation of mankind.

A. God created man with one purpose in mind, that they would be His children.

1. When He created man, God had exactly the relationship He wanted with them.
 - a. He provided for them.
 - b. He had a face to face relationship with them.

- c. They obeyed Him as children obey their father.
- 2. By persuading men to sin, Satan took that relationship away from God.
 - a. When Eve ate that fruit it was a rejection of God's rule over her.
 - b. Rejecting the rule of God in their hearts severed their relationship with God.
- 3. From that moment forward, God focused His attention on restoring that relationship.
 - a. The bible is God's record of His efforts to bring man back into His fellowship.
 - b. The unfolding of His plan started before the world was created and will be complete when the world is destroyed in flaming fire.
(**I Pet. 1:20** -cf- **II Thes. 1: 1-12**)

B. The ministry of Jesus was to put God's plan of salvation into action.

- 1. The angel told Joseph that Jesus was coming specifically to save lost people.
Matt. 1: 21 - **She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus,
for He will save His people from their sins. (**I John 4: 14**, **I Tim 1: 15**)**
- 2. Jesus defined His purpose for being on the earth as to save lost people.
Luke 19: 10 - **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

C. The ministry of Christians is the same as that of their Owner / Master.

- 1. **I John 2: 5b-6** **By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶ the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked. (**Acts 3: 26** , **I John 3: 5**)**
- 2. Jesus commanded his followers to work His ministry until He returned.
Matt. 28: 18-20 **And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**
- 3. The early Christians understood this to be a command to them and obeyed it.
Acts 8: 1, 4 **... And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.**

D. Are we, .. are **you obeying this command or are we rebelling against God, are we saying **no** to Him ?**

- 1. The commandment is clear ... **"teach the gospel to every creature."** **Mark 16: 15-16**
- 2. The application of it is clearly illustrated ... **"went about preaching"** **Acts 8: 4**

CONCLUSION :

A. When we pray we are acknowledging God as being in authority.

1. Even so, we expect Him to respond positively to our requests.
2. Being His servants, indeed, His property, we have no foundation for demands.
3. Yet, men often react negatively when God does not give us what we want.

B. How do you think God feels when we do not give Him what He wants.

1. God created us and died to redeem us from our folly so He has every right to expect that we will devote our hearts and lives to Him. (**Matt 10: 37-39**)
2. Because God created us and died to save us from the consequences of our sins, He has every right to expect that we will pro-actively work to lift up His name.
3. Having voluntarily hung on the cross to purchase our pardon and to open the gates of Heaven to us, He has every right to expect that we will share that good news with others just as He has commanded for us to do.

INVITATION :

1. The question is, “*Are we obeying God or are we telling God no ?*”
2. Only His children will live in His house eternally.
3. His children love Him, respect Him, and obey Him.

*** What is your relationship with God ?**

Lesson Text :**Mathew 10: 28-42**

28 “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. **29** Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30** But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. **31** So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.”

32 “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. **33** But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. **35** For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; **36** and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.”

37 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. **38** And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. **39** He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it”.

40 “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. **41** He who receives a prophet in *the* name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. **42** And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”