



## Sitting Before the Lord

David Alsobrook

### David Sat Before the Lord

*Scripture Reading: II Samuel 7:1-29*

David had come a long way from his days as a lowly shepherd. The Lord, having removed Saul, had firmly established the kingdom under David's rule and had given him rest from all his enemies. The Lord had prospered the king--David now lived in a royal palace. One day he said to the prophet Nathan, "See here! I am living in a cedar palace while the ark...is inside the curtain of a tent" (v. 2 Berkley, Moffatt).

David naturally assumed that the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in a small tent all these years since Moses

built it deserved the finest house in all of Israel. Nathan intuited David's thought processes and urged him to do all that was in his heart to honor the Lord. David's assumption was shared by the prophet Nathan. That is why he encouraged David to do all that was in his heart.

But when Nathan returned home that evening, the Lord corrected him and gave him a message to deliver to the king the next day. First, the Lord gently corrected David's presumption "Go and tell My servant David, "Have I ever said I was discontent? Did I ever say, 'I wish I had a cedar house to dwell in.'?" (paraphrased)

The Lord then told David that He would build him a house, a lineage. This amazed David that the Lord spoke of his family lineage and the glory of Israel in the future. Third, the Lord assured David that his

son would build the Temple  
God would eventually inhabit.

All this revelation stunned the king. Feeling small and overwhelmed by the great goodness of God, much greater than anything he imagined, filled his heart with gratitude and thanksgiving. He then went to the tent where the Ark of the Covenant was enshrined behind a curtain, and “sat before the Lord.”

## **Sitting Before the Lord**

What does it mean to sit before the Lord?

*Sitting before the Lord means emptying your mind of your plans about what you should do about anything.*

David's mind had been filled, he thought, with a God honoring desire only to find out God had a much better plan. Had he gone on with his desire, David would have missed God. It is easy to assume things about the Lord. The imagination can become creative. Preachers are bad about this. They allow the natural mind to conceive building plans and growth programs the Lord did not initiate. It is logical and makes

perfect sense to the natural mind. So, they present it to the people as God's plan. The people trust the preacher to hear God's voice (this is their presumption). So, the church congregation becomes burdened financially greater than their means. Many sweet fellowships have become stressed and contention has arisen due to this.

Had the pastor “sat before the Lord” his plans would have been shown to be ahead of God's plans for the fellowship at this time. Many pastors have had their congregations split and leave for other churches during “a building program”.

Sitting before the Lord can help you be spared from presumption, too. I could cite many examples from my own four decades, but I'll spare us both.

Something else this practice means is this:

*Sitting before the Lord means allowing yourself to become empty and poor in spirit.*

When most believers sense the Presence they immediately begin speaking when they would do much better remaining quiet. They tell the Lord to get to work for them doing this, that, and the other thing. This self-centered focus is not pleasing to Abba. He desires that we learn to be still before Him and allow our Awe of God to increase.

If you are a newborn Christian you can get by with blabbing whenever the Lord shows up; but if you are older He will withdraw. **He wants our Awe to increase.** When our hearts are filled with awe, He will bestow His all in our lives.

David was not poor in spirit when he told Nathan that it wasn't right that the king lived in a palace while the Ark dwelt in a tent. He assumed that he knew what was what. Boy! Was he in for a surprise!

Jesus said the poor in spirit are the ones who are given the kingdom of heaven. He did not mean that people who think they have it figured out won't go to Heaven; He meant they won't enjoy the kingdom of heaven reality on earth. Most of us think we are fairly rich in the things of God, that we have a lot of knowledge, experience, whatever.

In reality, most of us have a thimble full of God, and this is wonderful beyond measure! But we think our thimble is a bucket whereas it is a thimble. And Abba wants His children to have much more than a bucket. He wants us to merge with Him like the ocean.

## **Practice Doing This Each Day**

Let me give you some practical tips to begin incorporate “sitting” in your life.

***Pray in the Spirit for a little while first.*** When you sense the Presence of the Lord become still. It is good to simply sit and focus on Christ. Allow the mind to become quiet inside.

***Keep your eyes closed so you don't focus on external things.*** Focus on your breathing if that helps you grow quiet. The breath of life is a natural silencer. Become more aware of the Presence.

***Enjoy the Presence.*** As you become ever more aware of the Presence there will be a transfer from Heaven into your spirit. All you need to do is keep enjoying the Presence within you...as though you were entering into the Lord Himself. His Awe increases in your heart and His all becomes yours for that day.

## **Sitting Brings Great Blessings**

You are in for some tremendous blessings from Above when you sit in stillness. This makes it easy for your Abba to deposit His riches in you. You will be amazed. Purpose in your heart to begin practicing even 10 minutes of “sitting”...and let me know what happens as a result!

