



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2015

WHEN GOD SAYS NO

A Study in the Fatherhood of God



“Ask,” says God, “and my Answer is *Yes!*”

Ask, and it shall be given you . . . - Matthew 7:7

And all things, whatsoever ye shall **ask in prayer**, believing, ye shall receive. - Matthew 21:22

But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt **ask of God**, God will give it thee. - John 11:22

And whatsoever ye shall **ask in my name**, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. - John 14:13

If ye shall **ask any thing in my name**, I will do it. - John 14:14

. . . whatsoever ye shall **ask of the Father in my name**, he may give it you. - John 15:16

. . . Whatsoever ye shall **ask the Father in my name**, he will give it you. - John 16:23

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: **ask**, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. - John 16:24

If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ask of God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- James 1:5

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above **all that we ask** or think,
according to the power that worketh in us . . .

Ephesians 3:20

Who are we Asking?

The One who asks us to ask and promises that He will answer if we do ask

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him?

Matthew 7:7-11

God Says “Yes”

So, Does God Ever Say “No”?

- Moses prayed that he might enter the land of Canaan, but God denied him, and instead led him to Mount Pisgah.
- The man set free by Jesus requested to go with Jesus, but Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.”
- Paul intended to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit it, and instead he heard in a dream the cries of the man from Macedonia saying, “Come over and help us.”
- And, of course, Jesus in the Garden physically yearned to have this cup pass, but He submitted to the will of the Spirit, leading Him to the Cross.

Corrie ten Boom

Not Germany, Lord!

The Young Faith-Filled Missionary

A Young Faith vs. A Matured Faith

- A Young Faith says . . .

God will do it . . . this particular way

- A Matured Faith

God will do it . . . His way

The Boat Filling up with Water

- A Young Faith often genuinely believes that suffering is bad, and death to be avoided at all costs
- A Matured Faith genuinely believes suffering to be good and death to be actual gain and victory
- A Young Faith prays to avoid hardship, trial, imprisonment, persecution, and death - and it does this with genuine love and care, but a love and a care that is still very ignorant
- A Matured Faith prays for God to supply grace in hardship, triumph through sufferings, the sweet aroma of His presence in difficulty, and that a magnificent glory would usher forth out of the circumstances

The Principle of Saying “No”

It’s an expression of love, respect, and priority

Saying “No” to one thing is actually saying “Yes” to something else

The Two “No’s”

1. The Capricious No
2. The Loving No

1. The Random No
2. The Rock-Like No

The Loving “No”

The “No” that a Good Father gives

Four Sorts of Loving “No’s”

1. The “No” that is given in order that a “Yes” might be supplied. A “Yes” to something that is exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think

Israel’s Cry for Deliverance from the Romans

2. The “No” that is given in order that a “Yes” might be declared to a superior request

Joseph and the Cupbearer Plea

3. The “No” that is given in order that a Greater Love might be expressed

Gethsemane

4. The “No” that is given in order that a Greater Glory might be revealed

Lazarus

The Good Father

Introducing the Watchmaker and His Daughter

The Watch

You Don’t Need to Know Precisely How it Works Mechanically to Believe its Message

The Suitcase Full of Watch Parts

The Arrival of Agabus

And the Great Challenge to the Body

When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. And finding disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem.

Acts 21:3-4

On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus says the Holy Spirit, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, **The will of the Lord be done.**

Acts 21:8-14

This We Know

- He Cannot Lie (Titus 1:2)
- He Will Not Change (James 1:17)
- He is the Same Forever (Hebrews 13:8)
- He is Eager to Answer (Luke 11:13)
- He is a Rewarder of the those who Diligently Seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)
- He is a Good Father and He gives Good Gifts to His Children (Matthew 7:11)
- He works all things for good to them that love Him and are called according to His purpose (Roman 8:28)

The Dark Night of the Soul

When the Dark seems really dark

The Interpreter of Dreams

Jesus is the Key that Unlocks Every Mystery

Grabbing Ahold of the Promiser

And not letting go

Jacob wrestled, not so much with a promise, as with the Promiser.

E.M. Bounds
(67, *Complete Works*)

The Two-Sided Ticket

After much prayer the answer comes . . .

- Many have received an answer back from Heaven in ticket form that reads, “No”
- Some have received the same ticket but it was blank, silent, mum in response
- For lack of discipleship in the Church, many have been wrecked in their faith due to this ticket. They couldn’t comprehend a “No” from God especially when He promises a “Yes”
- The Church of Generations past are very familiar with the two-sided ticket and have historically cherished the “No” because they know that it is evidence that they have, in fact, received a two-sided ticket
- A two-sided ticket is to be cherished above all other answers
- For a two-sided ticket offers another side. The “No” is merely the hint to turn the ticket over
- On the other side is God’s affectionate fatherly paragraph beloved by all the suffering saints before us

The Affectionate Fatherly Paragraph

Dear Precious Child,

I have taken it upon myself to direct your investment of faith into something very special. It’s a “Yes” of heavenly proportions and one that is sure to make your heart swell with excitement as well as cause the Glory of God to increase in this earth. Since I am all-

wise, all-knowing, and I understand all things, I have seen fit to say “No” to your initial request that I might give you this “Yes” instead. For this “Yes” will express my love, power, and grace toward you and through you in even greater measure.

Thank you for trusting me implicitly,
Your Heavenly Father

The Super-Intending Spirit

We groan in the Earthly tongue - He translates into the Heavenly tongue

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:26

Remember

A “No” from God is just His way of saying “Yes” to something exceedingly abundantly beyond all you could ask or think