



# What to do with Failed Dreams

2 Samuel 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, & 18; Psalm 25:1, 5

The Bottom Line: When your dreams can't come true, "Not my will, but thy will be done."

## Introduction

Today, we are reminded life rarely goes as anticipated.

Plans are great.

Reality is greater.

Reality always wins. Things don't always go as planned because of decisions we make or decisions made by others.

Some dreams **will not** come true. Some **cannot** come true.

You were under the impression...

God **promised** you.

God **owed** you.

You played by the rules. It looks like everybody else's dreams are coming true.

God granted **them** your wish!

What do we do when our dreams **can't** come true?

In his 20s, David's dreams / God's promises were undermined by crazy King Saul. He panicked. People died. David learned an important lesson.

As king, he would undermine his own dreams and leave us with an important lesson. Twenty-two years after becoming king, in his 50s, David sends his companions to war.

David sees Uriah's wife bathing.

- Probably more than one night.
- Pregnant.
- David panics ... but attempts to control outcomes.

- Orders Uriah (the husband) to be isolated in battle. He dies.
- David marries Bathsheba. All good.
- Everybody knew. Slaves talk.

Nathan the prophet confronts the king. David allows the law to break him. But sin always comes prepackaged with consequences.

2 Samuel 12:11-13

Ten years go by.

2 Samuel 13:12-15

David does nothing!

2 Samuel 14:32; 2 Samuel 15:10

David's firstborn son is murdered by his favorite son who instigates a civil war that threatens everything he's built.

2 Samuel 15:13-14

This was not the dream/plan/expectation.

There we are. Heartbroken. Disappointed. Angry. Looking for someone to blame.

Where's **God**?

What's the **point**?

Why even **try**?

2 Samuel 15-23-26

Thy will, not my will. David lost his **world**; he did not lose his **confidence** in God.

David chose not to abandon God even when it appeared God may have abandoned him.

God put me in place; God will choose how and when I'm replaced.

2 Samuel 17:7-10

2 Samuel 18:5-8, 19

David was flawed, but never lost his confidence in God. David's somewhat sad ending reminds us of something incredibly important ...

Especially when our dreams can't come true ...

## Application

The foundation of our faith is not answered prayer (or) “**happily-ever-after**” endings.

It’s always a mistake to wrap our faith in God around the fulfillment of our dreams or even the answers to our prayers.

Dreams that don’t come true say nothing of God’s faithfulness or activity. David would be quick to remind us:

We’re mistaken to assume we’re forsaken.

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*“If I find favor in the LORD’s eyes, he will bring me back ...  
let him do to me whatever seems good to him.”  
-- 2 Samuel 15:25-26 (NIV84)*

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Thy will, not my will. I may lose my **world**, but I will not lose my **confidence** in God.

I choose not to abandon him even when it appears he has abandoned me.

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*“In you, LORD my God, I put my trust ...  
My hope is in you all day long.”  
-- Psalm 25:1, 5 (TNIV)*

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Anybody with dreams that can’t come true?

## Next Steps

- Memorize Psalm 25:1, 5**
- Pray: Thy will, not my will.**
- Think: I may lose my world, but I will not lose my confidence in God.**
- Remember: I’m mistaken to assume I’m forsaken.**
- Join Us Next Week for *The Lord’s Prayer***