

Frustration

- There are many “faces” of frustration in our lives.
- When frustration comes we can:
 1. Get mad at God
 2. Hinder His presence in our lives
 3. Become completely illogical in our approach to life

I. David became angry and frustrated with the Lord! (I Chron. 13:3, 6-8)

3 and let us bring the ark of our God back to us, for we have not inquired at it since the days of Saul.”

6 And David and all Israel went up to Baalah,^[a] to Kirjath Jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God the LORD, who dwells between the cherubim, where His name is proclaimed. 7 So they carried the ark of God on a new cart from the house of Abinadab, and Uzza and Ahio drove the cart. 8 Then David and all Israel played music before God with all their might, with singing, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on cymbals, and with trumpets.

A. Right in the middle of celebration and excitement, tragedy hit and frustration came! (verse 9-11)

9 And when they came to Chidon's^[b] threshing floor, Uzza put out his hand

to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. 10 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God. 11 And David became angry because of the LORD's outbreak against Uzza; therefore that place is called Perez Uzza^[c] to this day.

1. As usual with us, David's frustration was misguided.
2. They mishandled the ark (God's presence) and that is why the incident
3. They put the ark on a cart, but yet God said to carry it. (See Ex. 25:12)

12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side.

4. Is our life submitted to God's way of doing things?
5. Frustration can still come when we are doing everything right.

B. This moment of frustration caused David to walk away from the presence of God. (verse 12-13)

12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 And you

shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.

1. The very presence that David walked away from is what was a blessing to Obed-Edom.
(verse 14)
14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them.
2. Seeing these blessings is what motivated David to continue! (I Chron. 15:25)
25 So David, the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom with joy.
3. The presence of God blessed Obed-Edom and his heritage! (I Chron. 26:15)
15 to Obed-Edom the South Gate, and to his sons the storehouse.^[a]
4. Will your heritage have a “storehouse” of God’s presence because of you?

II. Peter became frustrated when things didn’t go the way he thought they would go!

A. Peter watched as Jesus turned the water into wine.
(John 2:7-9)

B. Peter watched as He “cleansed the Temple”. (13-16)

- C. He watched the supernatural water baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. **(3:36)**
- D. He watched as Jesus supernaturally spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well. **(4:10)**
- E. Peter watched as Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda, infirmed for 38 years. **(5:5)**
- F. He listened as Jesus proclaimed His son-ship to the Father. **(5:19)**
- G. Peter watched Jesus feed 5,000. **(6:11)**
- H. He watched as Jesus confounded the Pharisees. **(8:7)**
- I. He watched Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead. **(11:43)**
- J. Peter listened in awe as Jesus prays! **(John 17)**
- K. He watched as Jesus gave Himself to suffering and death. **(John 19)**
- L. Peter's frustration began to set in because" ...they did not know the scripture that He must rise again."
(John 20:9)
9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.
- M. ...so he just went home. **(verse 10)**
10 Then the disciples went away again

to their own homes.

N. After struggling with these events, Peter finally said,
"I'm just going fishing." (John 21:3)

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately^[a] got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

1. I'm going to do what I'm familiar with or comfortable with.
2. Frustration will hinder your progression of maturity.

III. Balaam became frustrated and lost all logic and common sense! (God did give us a brain to think with)

A. Balaam became frustrated with God. (Numbers 22:11-13)

11 'Look, a people has come out of Egypt, and they cover the face of the earth. Come now, curse them for me; perhaps I shall be able to overpower them and drive them out.'"

12 And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."

13 So Balaam rose in the morning and said to the princes of Balak, "Go back

to your land, for the LORD has refused to give me permission to go with you.”

1. Balaam puts forth the “word of the Lord”.
(verse 18)
18 Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

2. Then the Lord spoke something Balaam didn’t expect to hear. (verse 20)
20 And God came to Balaam at night and said to him, “If the men come to call you, rise and go with them; but only the word which I speak to you—that you shall do.”

- B. Obviously, Balaam “goes beyond the word of the Lord.” (verses 22-25)
22 Then God’s anger was aroused because he went, and the Angel of the LORD took His stand in the way as an adversary against him. And he was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. 23 Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went

into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road. 24 Then the Angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on this side and a wall on that side. 25 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she pushed herself against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck her again.

C. All logic flees! (27-30)

27 And when the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD, she lay down under Balaam; so Balaam's anger was aroused, and he struck the donkey with his staff.

28 Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?"

29 And Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have abused me. I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you!"

30 So the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey on which you have ridden, ever since I became yours, to this day? Was I ever disposed to do this to you?"

And he said, "No."

1. There is a conversation going on here!

2. There is no indication that Balaam ever thought this was strange!
3. At times, what we think are prints of frustration could actually be the Lord saving us from something! (verses 32-35)

32 And the Angel of the LORD said to him, "Why have you struck your donkey these three times? Behold, I have come out to stand against you, because your way is perverse before Me. 33 The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live."

34 And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, "I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back."

35 Then the Angel of the LORD said to Balaam, "Go with the men, but only the word that I speak to you, that you shall speak." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.