

# Numbers 30:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

## Analysis

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**If her father disallow her** (וְהִנֵּא אָבִיךָ אַתָּה) — The verb *nû'* means to hinder, restrain, or forbid. Critically, this nullification must occur **in the day that he heareth** (בְּיֹם שְׁמַעְתָּה, *beyom shom'ot*) — immediate response required. Delayed objection validates the vow, preventing capricious later interference.

**The LORD shall forgive her** (וַיְהִי יְסַלֵּחַ לְהָ) — *Salah* (to forgive, pardon) appears exclusively with God as subject in the Old Testament. Though she made a binding oath to Yahweh, His grace covers the unfulfilled vow when proper authority nullifies it. This foreshadows how Christ's authority releases us from obligations we cannot fulfill (Matthew 16:19).

## Historical Context

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The same-day requirement prevented fathers from using vow-nullification as a tool of manipulation. Once a father heard his daughter's vow and remained silent, he bore responsibility for its consequences. This balanced protection of the vulnerable with respect for the binding nature of oaths made to God — a revolutionary legal protection for women in the ancient world.

## Related Passages

## **John 15:13 — Greatest form of love**

## 1 John 4:8 – God is love

## Study Questions

1. What does God's forgiveness for an annulled vow reveal about His understanding of human authority structures within covenant relationship?
2. How should the same-day requirement inform our own decision-making about commitments—both in accepting them and in advising others?

## Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי אֹם	אָבִים	אֲתָה	בַּיּוֹם	שְׁמֻעָה	כָּל
H518	disallow	But if her father	her in the day	that he heareth	H3605
H5106		H1	H3117	H8085	
not any of her vows	or of her bonds			wherewith she hath bound	H5921
H5088	H632	H834	H631		
her soul	shall stand	and the LORD	shall forgive		disallow
H5315	H6965	H3068	H5545	H0	H5106
But if her father		H853			
H1					

## Additional Cross-References

**Ephesians 6:1** (References Lord): Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

