

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Honesty and Restraint

D.J. Stucky

There are times where we may benefit ourselves at the expense of others. Sometimes such an opportunity is dropped in our laps, and we must choose whether we will take it or not. If the post office accidentally delivers a very expensive item to your door by mistake, will you keep it? Someone else will be missing it, but they may never know. There are other times when these opportunities are available because of authority we might wield. If you are an employer and have a personal issue with an employee, will you use your authority to make their lives difficult? In Genesis 43:15-34, we see how the sons of Jacob dealt with exactly this situation.

Jacob's sons had been sent back to Egypt with Benjamin to buy good and retrieve their brother Simeon (Gen. 43:1-14). When they arrived, Joseph ordered his steward to invite them to a meal. The brothers explained their circumstances to Joseph's steward, including the money they found in their sacks after the first visit. The steward then released Simeon to them, washed their feet, and took care of their animals (43:15-24). They finally met with Joseph, who questioned them regarding Jacob's wellbeing and the identity of Benjamin (43:25-30). During the meal, Joseph gave Benjamin a much greater portion than the others, and all of them ate merrily (43:31-34).

It would have been very tempting, especially in a time of famine, for Judah and his brothers to stay silent and keep the money. However, they knew that there were greater forces at play. To begin with, they understood that keeping the money would make them criminals in the eyes of Egypt. Given their circumstances, this would have been very unwise. Furthermore, more importantly, keeping the money would have been dishonest (Prov. 20:23; Lev. 19:11). They knew the money was not theirs, they knew to whom it belonged, and thus they had the obligation to return it. In fact, one principle of repentance is restitution, meaning we restore what was lost and make things right (Lev. 6:1-5; Eph. 4:28). Even if we can get away with wrongdoing before men, our integrity before God, who judges the hearts of men, is far more important (Lk. 16:15; 2 Cor. 5:10 cf. 1 Thess. 2:4).

Joseph also understood that his integrity before God mattered, therefore he treated his brothers with respect. The moment Joseph's brothers returned with Benjamin, he released Simeon to them. Though Joseph used his rank to test the hearts of his brothers, he did not use it for petty vengeance. He used the resources at his disposal to do good and make them feel welcome (1 Tim. 6:17-19; 1 Jn. 3:17).

Regardless of our circumstances, we should never abuse a situation for our own personal gain. Judah and the others showed their honesty, and Joseph showed emotional restraint. Both are qualities that Christians should possess.

Shepherds

Sid Carruth
Jeff Day
Kenneth Helm
Clark Lehtinen
Tim Norman

Deacons

Gary Barger
Ryan Cowan
Vince Grinnell
Justin Hewlett
Bill Hughes
Russ Jones

Minister

Kevin Rhodes

Associate

D.J. Stucky

Sunday

Bible Study
9:00 am
AM Worship
10:00 am
PM Worship
5:00 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Class
10:00 am
Bible Study
7:00 pm

Cleburne,
Texas

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The Glory Due His Name

Kevin W. Rhodes

During the early portion of David's reign, he wanted to bring the ark of the covenant, and therefore Israel's tabernacle worship, to Jerusalem. While originally unsuccessful due to the improper manner of transportation, eventually David saw his dream realized, and the priests placed the ark in the most holy place of the tabernacle on one of the hills of Jerusalem near David's own dwelling. This proximity likely appealed to David, as one who enjoyed worshipping the LORD. However, as the beautiful expression he penned in Psalm 96 demonstrates, this united proximity of the throne of David and the worship of God provided the context for an appreciation for the Kingship of God that Israel consistently failed to accept and that promised even greater things for the future.

The new location of the ark created new possibilities for Israel, and yet it was important to see them spiritually. Indeed, freshness of spirit, a recognition of the covenant relationship God has made possible, and an understanding of His universal worthiness ought to motivate our worship at any time (Psa. 96:1). Thus motivated, worship becomes an opportunity to declare what God has done with a heart of thankfulness that extends beyond the moment to affect the heart daily (Psa. 96:2). Worship should change us, but it can only do so when we change how we worship. Any true conviction concerning God's greatness cannot simply dwell within but swells up within until nothing can contain it, simply from reflecting on all that God has done and responding to Him in accordance with His will (Psa. 96:3). This is no emotional hype because our dedication and devotion to and our reverence for our God rest not on a blind faith nor on an unintellectual hope. It finds ground in the reality of His being, the truth of His character, and the power of His essence (Psa. 96:4). Therefore, our God is no crutch rooted in the imagination of

the desperate; He is the Creator of the universe upon whom all depend, whether they realize it or not (Psa. 96:5). He reigns as divine royalty, with all the accompanying honors; more than that, He combines the leadership of a general and the splendor of a king while ruling on a throne that sits within a temple dedicated to His honor (Psa. 96:6). The LORD, thus enthroned, deserves all that His creation has to give, a recognition of all that He has done and can do that leads us to offer our obeisance, our allegiance, and our all as we enter His presence to worship (Psa. 96:7-8). Therefore, we must prepare ourselves for His presence accordingly, dressing ourselves in the robes of holiness as we humbly approach His throne (Psa. 96:9). Then, knowing the LORD, His character, and His will bring forth a confidence in the future that nothing else can approach. The simple knowledge that "The LORD reigns" is sufficient to know that, whatever else may happen upon this earth, righteousness will prevail (Psa. 96:10). This makes joy, gladness, and confidence in life possible, regardless of anything else that might occur (Psa. 96:11-12). The LORD had a plan, a plan to come forth from the abode of His sanctuary to establish His reign unmistakably and thus to rule within righteousness accordingly to the standard of truth (Psa. 96:13).

When David brought the throne of mercy near to his own throne, he never realized the ultimate end God had in mind. But when Jesus came to earth to fulfill the Messianic mission, He, as the standard bearer for the throne of David, established His reign in a kingdom not of this earth (Matt. 16:18-19; John 18:36) by being raised from the dead—not only to rule as the rightful heir of David, but to do so from the throne of mercy existing in heaven itself (Heb. 1:8-9; 9:24-28). How truly worthy God is of our worship, of our devotion, and of our lives! In all that we do, may we ever remember "the glory due His name"!



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Bruce Eversole had tests last Monday.
- Helen Henslee has bronchitis and the flu.
- Corbin, Vincent, and Ollie Grinnell have the flu.
- Katie and Emily Lindsey both are fighting the flu.
- Don Manning had his other eye surgery on Wednesday.
- Jane Mayden's sister, Carol Goodheart, had triple by-pass surgery on Wednesday.
- Barbara Milstead had knee replacement surgery last Monday.
- Ralph Rockett has been going through tests with the cardiologist this week. They had to postpone his hip surgery.
- Rob Stidolph has been sick.

Please remember in prayers

Diane Dill, Dallas & Darla's daughter, Earlene Doty, Pam Jones, Lehtinen family, Betty Rutledge, Joe Warlick.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Natasha, Clark, Deborah and the Lehtinen & Pruitt families in the passing of Casey on Sunday. The funeral was Friday at Granbury St. church of Christ.

Coming up...

- Game night will be Tuesday, February 13th, starting at 6:00 in the annex.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Leviticus 10:3

Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.'" So Aaron held his peace.

Isaiah 52:11

Depart! Depart! Go out from there, Touch no unclean thing; Go out from the midst of her, Be clean.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 2/11

Front South

Colton Allen
Dale Ash
Tom Collins

Front North

J. D. Allen
Will Cammack
Steve Baze

Back South

Weldon York
Sid Carruth
Bill Hughes

Back North

Gene Threadgill
Caleb Norman
Daniel Hughes

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Kenneth Helm

Sunday PM

Don Crecelius

Robert Pennay

Wednesday PM

Clint Owens

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Tim Norman

Wednesday

Tim Norman

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Tom Collins

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Paul Murphy

Beacon of Truth, Pat McIntosh's internet radio program will be on Monday thru Friday at 7:00 AM.

Expositions, Kevin's television program, airs on GBN every Monday night at 7:30 pm and then re-airs on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Complete Obedience
2 Kings 5:1-19

PM

Responding to Spiritual Needs
James 5:12-20

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

9/7-8 Marriage and Parenting Seminar
with Neal and Kathy Pollard

10/21-24 Gospel Meeting
with Todd Clippard



Our Records

Bible Class.....	133
AM Worship.....	208
PM Worship.....	132
Wednesday Bible Class.....	88
Contribution.....	\$10,603

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