

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

No Excuses

D.J. Stucky

Humans are very adept at making excuses. From a young age, we learn how to give our parents reasons for why we disobeyed them. If we do not want to attend a certain event, any excuse will do for why we cannot go. Every person has made an excuse at some point or another. However, when God asks us to do something, no excuse will ever be good enough. Moses discovered this in Exodus 4:1-17.

The Lord had appeared to Moses amid a burning bush and told him to go to Egypt that the Israelites might be delivered from bondage (Ex. 3:10). However, Moses began to make excuses. First, he asked what he would do if the people would not believe him. The Lord responded by equipping Moses with three different miracles which would prove that his message was from Him (Ex. 4:1-9). Then Moses said that he was not eloquent enough to speak to Pharaoh. Even after God reassured him that he was adequate, Moses still asked for someone else to be chosen (4:10-13). Though this angered the Lord, He allowed Moses' brother Aaron to go with him and be a spokesman (4:14-18).

Moses sought any reason he could to stay away from Egypt. However, when Moses made excuses, God further equipped him for the task at hand. God does the same thing for us through His word (2 Pet. 1:3). While we may not have miracles, we have the Bible; an infallible record of everything that God has done for mankind. If we are diligent in studying God's word, we will be thoroughly equipped to do every good work (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17). God has supplied us with the resources we need. It is therefore our responsibility to use them.

In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the parable of the talents. Three men are given a sum of money and told to make more while their master is away. Two of them double the value of what they are given, but one hides his talent away and returns it to his master unused. This unprofitable servant is punished, while the others are rewarded. Every person has a talent (1 Cor. 12:15-19). Every person has been given a command to work (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16). Every person has been given the resources he needs to work well. May we never make excuses as to why we cannot do the work, because God will never ask us to do something that we are incapable of. Instead, may we equip ourselves to do everything that God demands.

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

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Texas

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The Beauty of Hindsight

Kevin W. Rhodes

From the moment Moses' original appearance before Pharaoh led to that ruler's hard hearted crackdown on the family of Jacob, the children of Israel established their spiritual credentials as unappreciative complainers in response to the goodness of the LORD. Even as they came to recognize His power through the ten plagues, their instincts focused on complaining before the Red Sea, complaining in the wilderness, and complaining at the foot of Mount Sinai. After receiving the Law, they complained about the prospect of fighting giants, and even after coming within the confines of Canaan, they complained when events did not turn out as they wished. They had some high points in their history, such as the reign of David, but their history as a nation trudged ever downward—with only a few exceptions—until finally they ended up in Babylonian captivity. Then, after their national humiliation at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, the destruction of Solomon's temple, and years of poverty and exile, they received the hope that God had promised all along: they could go home and rebuild. Only then did they begin to appreciate the care and character of the God on High they had ignored. Thus, the reflection of Psalm 107, which begins the Fifth Book of the Psalms, reviews the history of Israel with attention to hindsight, highlighting the lessons Israel should have learned along the way but had not. However, rather than offering a heavy condemnation of their forefathers, the psalmist focused on the goodness and mercy of God throughout. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever: (Psa. 107:1).

In hindsight Israel realized their identity as a needy people redeemed by God, cared for by God, and established by God (Psa. 107:2-7). In hindsight Israel recognized the consequences of their own rebellious behavior and how essential their humiliation proved in awakening them to their spiritual need for the salvation only God provides (Psa. 107:8-14). In hindsight Israel

recognized the foolishness of sin and the justice of God's judgment. In turning to the LORD they finally accepted the saving power of His Word when coupled with faith (Psa. 107:16-20). In hindsight God's children developed an appreciation for sacrifice, for the joys of serving God, for the benefits of His presence in their lives, and for the hope deliverance offers (Psa. 107:21-30). God had done plenty for them throughout their history, and they finally took the time to see it and thus offer the repeated cry, "Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psa. 107:31). In hindsight they offered the praise due for centuries, acknowledging God's providential care and activity throughout all of life and history, especially to their spiritual benefit (Psa. 107:32-42). Therefore, after a millennium of rebellion, of ignorance, and of self-inflicted pain, the children of Israel finally had concluded what God had made available to them all along. Everything God had done for them, everything God required of them, and everything God had said to them was for their benefit and came from the deepest heart of love.

How sad that the most important insight into the character of the LORD would come only after years of obstinacy! And yet how often does that situation repeat itself today? God has showered so much love (Rom. 5:8), so much attention (Heb. 2:5-18), and so much wisdom (Prov. 1:7) on mankind, and yet so many ignore Him, reject Him, and rebel against Him, just like Israel of old. The lessons of truth remain available, for God has made them known (Jn. 8:32; 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Unfortunately, the stubbornness of men often holds out, waiting for a worldly option instead of embracing the only saving option we have. Hindsight is 20/20. But do you really want to wait until Judgment Day to learn how much you needed God all along (2 Cor. 5:10)? "Whoever is wise will observe these things, And they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord" (Psa. 107:43).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Andy Baker, Paul and Holly's son, was released from the hospital on Monday.
- Amy Hackler has several more days of IV antibiotics at home. She is very weak.
- Jim Elder will have surgery on his eye lid on Tuesday, May 1st and then will have cataract surgery on both eyes later in May.
- Dede Hight's mother, Phyllis Wiggins, is having problems with her health. Also, her father, Joe Miller, fell, hitting his head, and is not doing well.
- Carol McGilvray fell, breaking her right hip. She had surgery Thursday to repair it.
- Bill Massey, Melinda Norman's brother, is in room 211 at the Texas Rehabilitation Hospital in Fort Worth after falling and breaking his shoulder.
- Laura Stephens had a bypass on her leg on Tuesday. She is in CVCCU #4 at Huguley.
- Ronelle Stevenson, Betty Lane's cousin, is in critical condition in ICU at Baylor All Saints following several reactions from a blood transfusion.
- Erin Teal, a friend of the Haynes, is in room 382 at the Harris hospital.

New Member

Gwen Martin placed membership with us on Wednesday evening. Her address is 103 Stone Park Lane, Cleburne 76033; 214-536-5790. Welcome to our family!

Please note...

- Our next 5th Sunday will be April 29th. We will have our regular morning worship services, lunch in the annex, and 1:00 PM Question & Answer service.
- There will be a Teachers' workroom interactive training session on Sunday, April 29th, after the afternoon worship around 2:30 p.m. in the workroom. If you have any questions, see Deb Stidolph.
- Cherokee Home for Children's annual food drive will be Saturday, May 5th. The BBQ lunch will start at 12:00 noon. We will be taking up money on April 29th after the regular contribution so the home can purchase food in bulk.
- Saturday, May 5th, at 10:30 AM, we will meet in the annex to go door knocking. It's open to everyone.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2018 (NKJV)

Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD you God is with you wherever you go."

Psalms 34:14

Depart from evil, and do good; Seek peace, and pursue it.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 4/29

Front South

Gavin McGilvray
Rob Stidolph
Ryan Cowan

Front North

Kenneth Helm
DeWayne Henegar
Robert Pennay

Back South

Vince Grinnell
Larry Owens
Gene Threadgill

Back North

Cody Grinnell
Michael Hunt
James Hunt

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Bill Hughes

Sunday PM

Joshua Haynes

Mike Hight

Wednesday PM

Cody Grinnell

Clint Owens

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Dale Ash

Wednesday

Tim Norman

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

Jim Hudgins

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, every Thursday night at 6:00 pm, and every Saturday at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

Known

Psalm 139:1-24

PM

Questions and Answers

Calendar of Events



6/6-8/29 Granbury Street Summer Series

7/5-8/9 Family 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.....132

AM Worship.....196

PM Worship.....146

Wednesday Bible Class.....122

Contribution.....\$6,287

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