

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

“Whatever God Has Said to You, Do It”

D. J. Stucky

Christians should desire to influence people around them for good. To do this, we must have personal integrity and faith in God. In Genesis 31, we see how these attributes helped Jacob lead his family to a better place.

Jacob had worked hard in Laban’s household, acquiring great wealth as a result—a fact Laban and his sons resented (31:1-2). The Lord then commanded Jacob to leave Laban’s house and return to his own family (v.3). At this command, Jacob called his wives and told them God’s command, emphasizing the work he put in and the protection God offered (vv.4-13). Rachel and Leah realized they had nothing to hope for in Laban’s house and told their husband “whatever God has said to you, do it” (vv.14-16). As they prepared a stealthy escape, Rachel stole Laban’s household idols, unbeknownst to Jacob (vv.17-21). Laban discovered the escape and the theft and caught up to Jacob, demanding the idols be returned (vv.22-32). When Laban was unable to find them due to Rachel’s trickery, Jacob took the opportunity to rebuke Laban (vv.33-42). After making a covenant with him, Jacob and his family departed for the land of Canaan (vv.43-55).

This chapter shows us just how much Jacob’s character influenced his family. Rachel and Leah saw their husband maintain his integrity, even when Laban sought to take advantage of him (Gen. 31:6-7, 36-41). They saw Jacob trust in the Lord, who in turn protected him (Gen. 31:10-13, 42). This made it easy to follow Jacob and his God to a new land. Our conduct before our family can greatly influence their desire to serve God. Peter writes that a wife can win over an unbelieving husband with godly conduct (1 Pet. 3:1-6). Paul encourages new converts to stay with their unbelieving spouses, saying “For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?” (1 Cor. 7:16). When we live uprightly in a world that wallows in sin, our light will shine bright (Matt. 5:14-16). However, we cannot expect change to happen overnight. Even after Rachel decided to follow Jacob and his God, she stole from her father. Opinions vary on why she chose to do this. Regardless of the reason, it shows she did not yet trust God to care for them completely. We must understand that faith takes time to develop (cf. 1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14). Our job is to show others how to be faithful to the Lord by being faithful ourselves. That way when tough decisions arise, they can have the faith to say, “whatever God has said, do it.”

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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Through No Fault of Mine

Kevin W. Rhodes

In the Alfred Hitchcock classic *North by Northwest*, starring Cary Grant, Grant plays an advertising executive who is mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies. As a result, Grant finds himself trying to escape one attempt on his life after another—all because of a case of mistaken identity. I doubt that anyone would find himself in a situation so complicated and convoluted as Grant's character; however, the righteous can find themselves treated as enemies without having done anything whatsoever to deserve it. David had served King Saul admirably, bringing him great victories for Israel and honoring him in the process. Unfortunately, Saul's jealousy of David's exploits led the king to become openly hostile toward David, though David had done absolutely nothing wrong. Reflecting on an instance where he found himself on the run and hiding from Saul's men, David wrote, "They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold!" (Psa. 59:4). David felt the pressure, the fear, and the sadness that came with this situation, but he trusted God through it all. And that must be our approach to any similar circumstance as well.

It can be difficult to understand why people would spew hatred toward someone who has never wronged them, yet Jesus suffered from this throughout His ministry, even dying as a direct result of this attitude. In fact, sometimes people simply find the existence of righteousness—and even peace and happiness—a threat because they do not enjoy them themselves. As a result, they attempt to even the score—not by seeking

peace and happiness, but by trying to ruin the lives of others. This is the nature of evil. It is destructive and vindictive. And the people who fall into these patterns are victims of Satan's devices even as they make the righteous their enemies. Even in the church, Christians who find their faults exposed often lash out to destroy those who have figured them out. For the guilty Christian, their motive is a sad type of self-preservation—seeking to preserve the myth of their godliness and their "territory," much like the chief priests and scribes in the time of Jesus. A Christian caught in such circumstances will feel isolated, betrayed, and confused, just trying to grasp what the motives could be of the hatred, lies, and contempt expressed by their own brethren. It is a mournful plight, to be sure, and yet it has occurred far too frequently.

Whether at school, at work, at home, or in the church, it is possible to find yourself spiritually "on the run," trying to defend yourself against a flurry of attacks that you do not deserve and probably do not even understand. It can be easy to allow your attackers to become your enemies, to induce you into returning the hate and losing sight of the righteousness that indirectly played a role in your situation. But we must rise above this, as David did and as Jesus did, and accept that being reviled does not justify reviling in return. Instead, we should heed the inspired words of Peter, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter" (1 Pet. 4:15-16).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Jeri Allen's father, Floyd Lee had emergency surgery Wednesday for internal bleeding. He is doing well but will be in ICU for several days.
- Lou Baker's daughter had surgery last week. She has not been doing well.
- Casey Lehtinen's update is that he will enter the hospital on May 18th or May 20th. The doctors are still discussing options for treatment. Please keep the Lehtinen family all in your prayers.
- Amy Hackler is home from the hospital..
- Billie Shaw had three spots removed from her bladder that were cancer. She is home now.
- Ricky Stepp, a member at Westhill, has asked for prayers as he is battling cancer.
- Carrie Williams has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will have 6 chemo treatments, surgery and 6 weeks (5 days a week) of radiation treatments. She is currently having tests.
- Donna York has asked for prayers for her cousin, Wesley Davis, who has had triple bypass surgery. Also, for her friend, Cathy Marlon, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Responses

Carrie Williams responded to the invitation confessing sins and asking for the prayers of the congregation. Please pray for Carrie, Chris and the girls in the next months as she battles breast cancer. God Bless them!

Fun Day for the Seniors

May 13th will be the Fun Day outing for the high school seniors. Plan on leaving the building at 11:15. They will eat lunch, play Whirlyball and are going to Speed Zone.

Please note...

- Sunday, May 7th, from 6:30 on will be our next youth devotional at the Hopkins' home. Girls bring drinks. Boys bring soccer and basketball balls. Everyone wear causal clothes.
- Tuesday, May 9th, will be the game night starting at 6:00 in the annex.
- Green Valley Bible Camp will be June 25th—July 1st. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer for those who wish to go together. Campers will be leaving June 24th and returning July 1st.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

Hebrews 9:28

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

1 John 4:10

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 5/7

Front South

Paul Murphy
Gene Threadgill
Rob Stidolph

Front North

Tim Norman
Robert Pennay
Mark Stubblefield

Back South

Michael Mora
Larry Owens
Melvin Owens

Back North

Howard Newberry
Clint Owens
Ricky Threadgill

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Mike Hight
Don Crecelius

Sunday PM

Tim Norman
Vince Grinnell
Colton Allen

Wednesday PM

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

Mark Stubblefield

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

Collection Counting

Jeff Day / Kyle Day / Paul Murphy



Sermons for Sunday

AM

A Harmonious Congregation
Philippians 1:1-2

PM

Strong Faith
Hebrews 11:17-19

Calendar of Events



5/21-24 Gospel Meeting with Mike Bonner

6/7-8/30 Summer Series: Families of Faith

9/15-16 Marriage and Family Seminar
with John and Carla Moore

11/5-8 Gospel Meeting with Mark Hanstein



Our Records

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| Bible Class | 131 |
| AM Worship..... | 208 |
| PM Worship..... | 113 |
| Wednesday Bible Class | 108 |
| Contribution..... | \$10,046 |

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