

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seek Reconciliation

D. J. Stucky

When people hurt one another, reconciliation takes time. Some wounds close quickly, some never heal, and other times the healing process takes decades. In Genesis 32, after being away from his family for twenty years, Jacob prepared to meet his brother Esau. Esau hated Jacob for stealing his blessing (Gen. 25:29-33; 27:1-46). Nevertheless, Jacob sought to be reconciled to his brother.

Jacob, while travelling home from Laban's land, sent messengers to Esau to tell him he was coming (Gen. 32:1-5). The messengers returned with news that Esau's forces were approaching. Jacob, afraid and distressed, divided his household in to two parties. If Esau attacked one, the other could escape (Gen. 32:6-8). Then, Jacob prayed to the Lord to thank Him for the blessings he had already received, and to ask for deliverance from his brother (Gen. 32:9-12). The next day he sent a large gift to his brother. Jacob hoped that this gift, presented as from a humble servant, would give him favor in the eyes of his brother. Jacob stayed another night at the camp, anxiously awaiting his reunion with Esau (Gen. 32:10-21).

When we are at odds with a Christian brother or sister, whether through our fault or theirs, God desires that we reconcile (Matt. 18:15-20). In this case, both brothers had made mistakes. But it was Jacob who took the first steps towards reconciliation. We must take these same steps if we want to preserve unity and peace in our relationships (Eph. 4:1-3). From the beginning, Jacob made his good intentions known (Gen. 32:1-5). His purpose was to find favor in the eyes of his brother—not to gloat. When seeking reconciliation, our brethren must understand that we are motivated by love—not a desire for personal justification (Jn. 13:34; Col. 3:12-14). We must be sincere. But, like Jacob, we can still be smart about protecting our own interests (Gen. 32:6-8). Jacob had no idea if his brother would respond with violence, and he prepared accordingly. We do not know if a brother will respond to us favorably; therefore, we should still be wise in how we approach them (Matt. 10:16). Despite the uncertainty, Jacob prayed to the Lord and went through with the plan. Any time we seek reconciliation, prayer must be a part of the process (Phil 4:6-7). Through prayer we gain strength, we gain peace, and we put ourselves in the proper frame of mind. Finally, Jacob presented himself to Esau as a humble servant. We are all to serve one another spiritually (Mk. 13:35; Jn. 13:12-17). This is the extra effort required if we want to reach true reconciliation.

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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Where is Their God?

Kevin W. Rhodes

The sadness Asaph (or more specifically one of that musical family) expressed as a witness of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in Psalm 79 offers a poignant reminder of the fragility of the circumstances in life we often take for granted. He recounted the hurt of watching the army of Nebuchadnezzar marching through Judah, defiling the temple, and destroying Jerusalem (Psa. 79:1). With horror he recalled the extent of death that left throughout the city—bodies left to rot in numbers so great the streets practically ran with blood (Psa. 79:2-3). The emotional distress created by such a humiliating circumstance left Asaph and those like him embarrassed as an object of ridicule by all their neighbors (Psa. 79:4). Left to ponder the lessons to be learned, Asaph correctly recognized that they were experiencing the consequences of their own actions and pled for relief from their pain (Psa. 79:5-7). Recognition finally had set in, and thus the petition for forgiveness in accordance with the Lord's mercy and the plea for deliverance pointed to the Lord's character and reputation rather than their own (Psa. 79:8-9). Then, in the midst of this request, in which he seeks an opportunity for Judah to return and be able to demonstrate their faithfulness once again (Psa. 79:10-13), he says something quite striking: "Why should the nations say, 'Where is their God?'" (Psa. 79:10). A consequence of their failure was quite telling. The Babylonians used it to declare

that Yahweh was nowhere to be found. This is important, because the fact is that the evidence of this existed before Jerusalem's destruction in the unfaithfulness of the people.

The lessons available throughout this psalm are numerous, but the essential point provides a challenge that Christians living in comfort easily forget. The trends in American culture for many years have pushed God and Christianity out of the realm of influence and into a place of relative cultural obscurity. Rather than provoking only political complaints and prayers for a change in circumstances, this should cause us to pause and consider what led to such a situation. For many years people relied on a generic Christian culture to carry their faith and support their morality instead of shining their own lights in a crooked and perverse generation (Phil. 2:15). With the culture turning both completely secular and largely immoral, rather than blaming others it is appropriate to consider our own failure to show others our God through righteous living, refusal to compromise, and bold evangelism. Thankfully, it is not too late to reverse this trend. Christians may not have a majority vote in what happens in Washington, D.C., but they have the power to determine whether people see God in their own lives. This, my friends, is what we must embrace, and we should give it our all, even if it is only, like Asaph, looking to the future and better days ahead.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Ruby Jo Barger, Gary's mother, is in room 322 at Walls hospital with congestive heart failure.
- Andrew Collins got a good report on his heart catheterization today: no blockage.
- Pam Jones is having problems with gout.
- Casey Lehtinen update: Doctors cut the Sprycel dosage down to one-half with no steroids. Then they will try to raise the dosage gradually.
- Frankie Morales, Doug and Gail Kilcrease's grandson, had surgery on his knee Thursday at Harris.
- Dianne Melton was moved to room 496 Richardson Tower at Harris on Wednesday.
- Darlene Walker saw the surgeon on Wednesday.
- Cameron Smyer, Elizabeth Hewlett's grandson, has been deployed to Kuwaiti for Afghanistan. Please pray for his safety.
- Lawrence Sowell, Meredith's son, will have a heart catheterization in Waco on September 29th.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the Norman and Massey families in the passing of Melinda's nieces, Susan Massey and Stefanie Massey. The funeral was Friday in Kennedale.

Congratulations

Jim & Carol Elder are proud to announce the arrival of their great grandson, Wyatt Clay Sherrill. He weighed 8 lbs, 13 ozs. Proud parents are Weston & Rachel Sherrill.

Responses

Tracie Jones responded to the invitation Sunday. She asked for prayers to be stronger for her family and church family. May God bless her and Russ!

Baptisms

We rejoice that Ryan and Chandler Baze were baptized this weekend. They are living in Lewisville and placed membership there. We are so happy for the Baze family in their decisions.

Please note...

The Cherokee Auction will be September 30th. If you have any items to donate please have them here by Sunday, September 24th. We will be cooking and selling hamburgers again this year. The money earned will be donated to the home. We are collecting money for the meat and fixings. If you would like to donate please give your money to one of the elders. Please let Clark Lehtinen know if you can help with cooking and selling the hamburgers.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 9/24

Front South

Mike Hight
Clark Lehtinen
Bill Hughes

Back South

Joe Warlick
Dennis Lane
Jim Hudgins

Front North

Kenneth Helm
Doug Jones
Daniel Hughes

Back North

Michael Mora
Doug Kilcrease
James Henslee

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Rob Stidolph
Justin Hewlett
Tom Collins

Wednesday PM

Mark Stubblefield

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Andrew Collins

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

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 new television program, airs at 7:30 pm Monday nights on GBN and will re-air on Saturdays at 2:30 pm.



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Sin of Manasseh
2 Chronicles 33:1-20

PM

The Peril of Pride
James 4:1-10

Calendar of Events



10/29

5th Sunday Q&A

11/5-8

Gospel Meeting with Mark Hanstein

12/10

Congregational Dinner

1/19-20

Evangelism Seminar
with Rob Whitacre



Our Records

Bible Class.....	112
AM Worship.....	181
PM Worship.....	112
Wednesday Bible Class.....	120
Contribution.....	\$5,296

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