

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

Isaac's Own Faith

D. J. Stucky

Despite our differences, humans are not all that different from one another. We all have desires, we all have struggles, we all face challenges. What truly distinguishes men is how we respond to these things. Every person must choose to follow God, or follow themselves. Even Isaac, the son of Abraham, had to make his own decision. We can see some of these decisions in Genesis 26:1-33.

When a famine struck the land of Canaan, Isaac and his family began traveling to find a better situation. At Gerar, the Lord appears to Isaac and tells him that he is not to continue to Egypt, but he must stay in the land that was promised to Abraham. God promised Isaac that He would give his descendants the land, and that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed "because Abraham obeyed My voice..." (Gen. 26:1-5). Isaac obeyed. However, there were challenges he needed to overcome. He got into trouble by being dishonest about his relationship with Rebekah, (26:6-11). He also got into property disputes with the Philistines while searching for water (26:15-23). Because of his faithfulness in staying, God blessed Isaac (26:12, 24, 28-29).

God's promise to Isaac was given based on Abraham's faithfulness (26:5). Abraham had proven that he had faith in God throughout his life. Now it was Isaac who would have to face similar trials of faith. Where Abraham was asked to leave behind a familiar situation to go the unknown (Gen. 12:1-5), Isaac was asked to stay in a difficult situation (Gen. 26:1-5). Both were required to trust in God to provide (Matt. 6:33; Jas. 1:17). Both Isaac and Abraham lied about their wives out of fear, but God still preserved them because of the promise He had made (Gen. 20:1-16; 26:6-12). Both were involved with disputes with foreign leaders, and both times the leaders recognized that they were blessed by God, leading to a beneficial resolution for all (Gen. 21:22-32; 26:26-33). Abraham and Isaac experienced very similar trials in their lives. However, Isaac could not ride on his father's coattails but had to obey for himself (Phil 2:12). Likewise, we all face similar trials (1 Jn. 2:15-17), and we must all decide individually to respond in faith (Jas. 1:2-8, 13-16). When we continue living life faithfully, the blessings of that life will become obvious even to people in the world. This does not mean that everybody will respond like Abimelech and seek to befriend us. Some will speak evil of us (1 Pet. 4:3-4), some will hate us for exposing their sin (Jn. 3:20), but some will come to glorify God (Matt. 5:13-16). If we want to have this influence, we cannot rely on the faith of others. We must have faith ourselves.

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

Volume 14,
Number 11

March 19,
2017

A Matter of Trust

Kevin W. Rhodes

The nature and object of your trust determines the direction of your life. This simple principle seems obvious on its face and yet in application often surprises. Perhaps this exposes the difference between the trust we claim and the trust we show. Regardless, our behavior places our priorities on display, and thus the true object of our trust. When Saul pursued David, in the midst of his paranoia, he accused his servants of conspiring against him, assuming that they knew of Jonathan's actions in support of David. Therefore, sensing an opportunity, Doeg the Edomite spoke up and told Saul that he saw David receive aid from Ahimelech (1 Sam. 22:9-10). Saul then called for Ahimelech, his family, and the rest of the priests of Nob, so that he could question them and punish them. When Saul called for his men to execute them all, they rightfully refused to kill the priests; however, once again, Doeg accepted the charge without a thought, killing eighty-five priests before then turning his sword against their families (1 Sam. 22:18-19). When Abiathar escaped to David and related the news, David was grieved, feeling responsible for their deaths (1 Sam. 22:20-23). Surely he was angry! He most certainly desired justice. David saw Doeg as the opportunistic mercenary that he was. But David also kept his perspective—not seeing Doeg through his own eyes, but more importantly, through the eyes of God, as his reflection recorded in Psalm 52 attests.

David describes Doeg as a man of big words with little faith (Psa. 52:1). Doeg's words led to the death of many people because he cared little for their actual guilt in a conspiracy but only for advancing his own career, whatever it took (Psa. 52:2-3). For this, David had no doubt, God would

judge him, so that no matter what reward he received for his deceit and violence in the short term, he would lose it all in the end (Psa. 52:4-5). Thus, David, speaking while a fugitive from the king about a man who seemingly had risen quickly through the ranks, did not fear Doeg, but God (Psa. 52:6). Despite the events that had led to the death of the priests of Nob and despite being on the run, David's perspective depended on trust. Thus, as he began to close the psalm, he presented a contrast—a contrast between himself and Doeg, a contrast of trust. “Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness.’ But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever” (Psa. 52:7-8).

From a worldly perspective, Doeg's trust in wealth had paid off, but David's trust in God had left him a refugee. However, that perspective depended on the moment instead of looking to eternity. Everyone must choose where to place trust. As Jesus taught, “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon” (Matt. 6:24). We must choose. We must decide whether we will trust the world and its ways or trust God Almighty and His. And in this, David's trust—and future—should provide all the direction we need. We do not have to know the immediate outcome of every challenge we face; we just need to trust that God does, and that He will do what we need. “I will praise You forever, Because You have done it; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for it is good” (Psa. 52:9).



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Barbara Burnett's aunt, Vinnie Jackson, cancer has spread throughout her abdomen. Her kidneys are also failing. Please pray especially for her spiritual health.
- Shelby Day has asked for prayers for her friend Elizabeth who is in the hospital.
- Jason Hackler hurt his back this past week. He will see the doctor soon. Amy is having problems with fluid in her lungs.
- Helen Henslee had tests on Monday.
- Karen Homesley, Linda and Don Manning's daughter, is having tests on her liver.
- Doug Kilcrease will have cataract surgery on Wednesday, March 29th.
- Casey Lehtinen's counts generally good, saw drop-in platelets that was expected. He will get maybe a week from chemo so the doctors can elevate his liver counts.
- Kidron Lehtinen will have an MRI on March 22nd to see if the cyst on his spine is growing.
- Mary McPherson is doing well following knee surgery.
- Tommy Thompson has been sick and not able to be out.

Jr/Sr Banquet

Saturday, April 1st, will be the Junior/Senior banquet. Seniors are Kyle Day, Jasmine Norman and Makaria Rhodes. If you would like to help with the cost of this activity please give your donations to Tim or Melinda Norman, D. J. or Dana Stucky, or the elders.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

1 John 3:4

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Review

Acts 15:24

Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, 'You must be circumcised and keep the law'—to whom we gave no such commandment

Mark 9:1

And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 3/19

Front South

Justin Hewlett
Doug Jones
Jim Hudgins

Front North

Clark Lehtinen
Mike Hight
Paul Murphy

Back South

Bill Hughes
Daniel Hughes
Conner Hackler

Back North

Kenneth Helm
James Henslee
Wesley Hackler

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Larry McWilliams
Clint Owens

Sunday PM

Sid Carruth
Pat McIntosh
Kyle Day

Wednesday PM

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Andrew Collins

Wednesday

Ryan Cowan

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Sunday PM

Russ Jones

Wednesday PM

Russ Jones

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Gavin McGilvray

Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Power of Faith
Hebrews 11:11-12

PM

Heart of a Christian
1 Corinthians 16:15-18

Calendar of Events



5/14-17 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

Bible Class128
AM Worship.....192
PM Worship.....134
Wednesday Bible Class103
Contribution..... \$7,832

Granbury Street Church of Christ

1211 N. Granbury Street
Cleburne, TX 76033

817-517-7713 (Local) or 817-517-6515 (Metro)
FAX: 817-556-3822
granburystreet@aol.com

www.granburystreetchurchofchrist.com