

FROM FAITH TO FAITH

GRANBURY STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

Apology Accepted

D. J. Stucky

Accepting an apology can sometimes be just as difficult as making one. When others have hurt us, we can feel a sense of entitlement. We deserve to have our pain avenged! However, this is not how God's people are called to forgive. In Genesis 33:1-17, Jacob and Esau show us an example of how forgiveness should work. After sending his family before him, it finally came time for Jacob to reunite with Esau. When they met, the two men embraced and wept over one another (Gen. 33:1-4). Esau received gifts from his brother and tried to give them back, but Jacob was adamant that Esau keep them (33:5-10). After offering to give Jacob aid, the two brothers departed and Jacob continued his journey to Canaan (Gen. 33:12-20). There are several lessons that we can take from this exchange.

Do not live in the past. The wrong done to Esau happened decades in the past, and that was where Esau was content to let it stay. Far too often we dredge up old infractions, looking for excuses to stay angry with people who have hurt us. This attitude will lead to condemnation (Matt. 5:21-26). Instead, we should run to embrace those who seek forgiveness as Esau ran to embrace his long-estranged brother.

Do not make demands when others seek forgiveness. Remember that Jacob had no idea how Esau would respond to his return. When they were last together, Esau wanted to kill him. It took a great amount of courage for Jacob to extend his hand towards Esau and try to make amends. Any time we try restoring a relationship that we have hurt, it puts us in a vulnerable position, and thus takes courage. We must respect this courage when others seek our forgiveness. Do not demand restitution, but seek reconciliation (Col. 3:13, Matt. 18:22). The relationship should be more important to us than getting paid back for the harm done to us. Esau initially eschewed the gifts that Jacob brought him for this very reason (Gen. 33:8-9).

Reciprocate. When others put forth effort to restore a relationship, we must put forth effort as well. Esau went out of his way to make Jacob and his family comfortable. Although Jacob ultimately turned down Esau's offers (Gen. 33:12-16), it shows the level of concern that Esau had for the relationship. It also shows that Esau had completely forgiven his brother. When somebody comes to us with heart in hand, asking for forgiveness, we must be ready to give it (Lk. 17:3-4).

Forgiveness and reconciliation is a two-way street. Jacob needed the courage to approach his brother. Esau needed the wisdom to accept him. It does not matter what has happened. Reconciliation is possible if both people commit to the right things. Let us, then, do our part in accepting others when they ask forgiveness from us.

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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Open Mouths, Open Hearts

Kevin W. Rhodes

When Yahweh gave the Israelites the Law of Moses, besides the civil and moral codes, the religious rites, and the health regulations, He also included instructions for the new nation to gather yearly at appointed times to participate in various feasts (Lev. 23:1). These festivals served an important function in the LORD's plan for Israel, though they rarely appreciated and kept them throughout much of their history until their return from captivity when they took on greater meaning, as the Pharisees' attitude toward the Sabbath implies (Lev. 23:3). Most people are familiar with the Passover and its roots in Israel's deliverance from Egypt (Ex. 12-13; Lev. 23:4-14), and Christians are usually aware of Pentecost due to its significance in Acts 2, even if the particulars of the feast remain a mystery (Lev. 23:15-22). However, the later feast, sometimes called The Feast of Trumpets due to the action that called the holy convocation on the first of the month, which paved the way for the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:23-32) is sometimes forgotten. Therefore, it is no surprise that people also remain unaware of the Feast of Tabernacles that followed shortly after this holy day (Lev. 23:33-34). Besides the sacrifices and feasting (Lev. 23:35-41), the Jews were to set aside the week and dwell in booths to commemorate their time traveling from Egypt to Canaan (Lev. 23:42-43)—a time that was extended to forty years due to their obstinacy. This background is essential to appreciate the message found in Psalm 81.

When the Jews would travel to Jerusalem for the feast, they would sing as they prepared their minds and hearts for the

assembly and festival (Psa. 81:1-2). Thus, the reflections offered in this psalm call to mind their worship while journeying to Jerusalem and their preparation for the final major gathering of the people in the year. The references to the trumpet, the times, the Law, and the land of Egypt leave no doubt as to the purpose of the song (Psa. 81:3-5), but the further commentary of remembrances demonstrates lessons learned the hard way. God had led them out of slavery in Egypt when they cried out to him but quickly forgot his provision in complaining of their thirst (Psa. 81:6-7). The psalm alludes to the covenant relationship Yahweh had with Israel, pleading with the Jews to appreciate Yahweh's words: "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it" (Psa. 81:8-10). This bold offer called to mind the sending of manna and quail, the provision of water in a dry land, but also the very word of God by which they could truly live (Deut. 8:3). Sadly, they would not listen and refused to learn (Psa. 81:11-12), and this also was their Jewish heritage. But God still cared and wanted them desperately to return and listen, for then he could bless them over and over again (Psa. 81:13-16).

What hope this might offer a people removed from the original events by hundreds of years! But how much more should it mean to God's people today, for we have seen His faithfulness not only toward Israel but in sending Jesus and the gospel. However, the principles of faithfulness still apply (Rev. 2:10). Therefore, my friends, open your mouth wide! Listen to what God has said and obey, for in fulfilling this there are multitudes of blessings awaiting from a God who can care for our every need.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Kristy Clonts, Linda and Don Manning's daughter, was bitten by a snake Tuesday night. Her foot is swollen up but she will be OK.
- Burnice Gentry had more tests this week at Harris Southwest.
- Amy Hackler had to have more antibiotics added to help with the infection.
- Casey Lehtinen's is holding his own.
- Melisa Reed's surgery is scheduled for Thursday, October 12th.
- Darlene Walker's had surgery Thursday at Huguley Hospital.
- Carrie Williams will start radiation treatments next week.

Please remember in prayers

Georgia Haynes niece, Shantese Guerrero, Nan and Henry Homan's nephew Danny Lee, Dianne Melton, Lawrence Sowell, Meredith's son

Please note...

- Our next game night will be on Tuesday, October 11th, at 6:00 in the annex.
- Elders, deacons and preachers' breakfast will be Saturday, October 21st, 8:00 AM at Sunrise Grill and meeting afterward at the building.
- 5th Sunday will be October 29th. We will have our regular morning services, lunch in the annex and 1:00 PM Question and Answer section for our afternoon service.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2017 (NKJV)

2 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 10/8

Front South

Will Cammack
Bill Cashion
Steve Baze

Front North

Russ Jones
Don Crecelius
Dale Ash

Back South

Colton Allen
Joshua Haynes
Weldon York

Back North

J. D. Allen
Cody Grinnell
Gary Barger

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Will Cammack

Bill Hughes

Sunday PM

Robert Pennay

Logan Frasier

Wednesday PM

Clint Owens

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Andrew Collins

Wednesday

Andrew Collins

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff Day

Sunday PM

Jeff Day

Wednesday PM

Dale Ash

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Larry McWilliams

Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes

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 Heart of Adversity

Ruth 1:1-22

PM

Attitudes Toward Marriage

Matthew 19:1-12

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.....130

AM Worship.....183

PM Worship.....137

Wednesday Bible Class.....118

Contribution.....\$6,763

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