

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## Aspirations of a Father

Kevin W. Rhodes

**B**iblical genealogies do not stir the imagination. Rarely do they include any interesting narrative, however so brief. On the surface it seems like they merely connect the dots between exciting events. Of course, they do more than this. Their regular occurrence throughout the Old Testament testifies both to the reality of death as a consequence of Adam's sin and the consistent pointing forward to God's solution in the Messiah. However, these sections of scripture also offer summaries, from time to time, that deserve greater contemplation. At the close of 1 Chronicles 7, and in a manner consistent with the entire chapter, the text says simply, "All these were the children of Asher, heads of their fathers' houses, choice men, mighty men of valor, chief leaders. And they were recorded by genealogies among the army fit for battle; their number was twenty-six thousand" (1 Chr. 7:40). As a father, these descriptions struck me as powerful: head of the house, choice, mighty, valor, chief, leaders. Realizing that these refer to Asher's men of war, these characteristics still deserve the attention of every father.

A father should act as the head of the home—not in some domineering, "the world revolves around me" way, but in taking responsibility for the future and well-being of his wife and children. To come home and realize there are people looking up to you and counting on you to do the right thing and say the right thing is a tremendous responsibility that those hugs and smiles should cause us to remember each day. A father should seek to be "choice"—gaining the approval and admiration of his family by becoming a better man for their sake. We are the models of manhood for boys and future husbands for girls. We have the challenge of becoming the man our wives hoped we would be when she said, "I do." Most men would like to think of themselves as mighty and brave, but we often reserve this for some heroic dream of stopping a bullet when we should be giving our all in protecting our families from the attacks leveled by Satan and his cohorts. I realize that praying with your family, reading the Bible with them, laughing and teasing, and talking to them about their problems are not glamorous, but who is to say that courage is always glamorous? Truly fathers must become leaders, chief leaders, the first into battle against monsters under the bed, spiders on the wall, and mice wherever they might be. A father should set the tone for being at Bible class and worship. A father should be in the forefront of guiding his children spiritually, fending off the dragons sometimes disguised as friends, boyfriends, and girlfriends, and preserving the honor and safety of those whom he loves. I did not realize all these things when I first became a father, but these truly are my aspirations. And they are why fatherhood is such an important job.

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen  
George Sowell

### Deacons

Gary Barger  
Jeff Day  
Vince Grinnell  
Justin Hewlett  
Bill Hughes  
Tim Norman

### Preacher

Kevin Rhodes

### 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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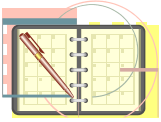
# Obedience Doesn't Look for Excuses - 3

Kevin W. Rhodes

**D**isciples do not excuse disobedience by pointing to their own ignorance. As silly as that sounds in almost any other context, people practice it regularly in the spiritual arena. Once David had secured control over the whole kingdom of Israel, he sought to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem since he was making it his new capital. However, rather than following the directions prescribed under the Old Covenant, they put the ark on a new cart. They paraded before it in song as the oxen pulled it from its former resting place to the place of honor hand-picked by the king. However, as they passed Nachon's threshing floor, the oxen stumbled and the ark shifted. Uzzah, wishing to steady the ark, reached out and touched the ark, and there he died (2 Sam. 6:1-7). David's reaction to this incident illustrates much about how spiritual ignorance works. Rather than questioning himself, he became angry at God's judgment. After that, he grew fearful, assuming that if he could not move the ark the way he had tried, then he could not move it at all. This then led him to complete inaction, so that he left the ark in the nearby house of Obed-edom (2 Sam. 6:8-10). Finally, David found the answer in the Law, and that made it possible for him to bring the ark to Jerusalem (1 Chr. 15:2). Now imagine what would have happened had David continued in ignorance, continued in anger, continued in fear, and continued in inaction. And yet, all of these were just manifestations of David trying to excuse his own ignorance! He wanted to do something spiritual, but God was not pleased with his choice.

Disciples do not excuse disobedience by self-doubt. Although most people prefer to present an image of self-confidence most of the time, for some reason we convince ourselves that doubt in spiritual matters is both natural and acceptable. The twelve apostles did not lack self-confidence. Indeed, their arguments over who would be greatest in the kingdom dispels that myth quickly. However, their lack of faith sometimes presented itself as doubt—the same kind of doubt that we sometimes use to excuse our own disobedience. When Jesus taught a crowd of over five thousand people, with dinner time pressing, the disciples encouraged Jesus to send everyone away to get something to eat. “But Jesus said to them, ‘They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.’ And they said to Him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’ He said, ‘Bring them here to Me’” (Mt. 14:16-18). The disciples saw only the five loaves and two fish; they did not see what Jesus had made it possible for them to do. He told them His disciples to give the people something to eat, but the disciples offered an excuse explaining why they could not do what He asked. Now, while no one today can feed a multitude using only five loaves and two fish, the principle still stands. God has never commanded something without providing the means for us to obey. Therefore, when he tells us how to worship, this is fully within our capability. When he tells us how he wants the church organized, this will work better than anything else. To doubt this leads to disobedience, and disobedience conflicts with discipleship. Disciples do not excuse disobedience. Period.

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# News and Notes

## Among our sick

- Britt Bachhofer had surgery on his ankle on Tuesday. He will be off work for several weeks.
- Bob Baze is home from the hospital but is in hospice care.
- Tom Barger, Gary's Dad, remains in CCU-#5 at Huguley. He is doing better.
- Ken Boroughs is waiting to get information on the treatments from his doctor's office.
- Kathy Chavez, Donna and Weldon York's daughter, is having extensive radiation treatments. She cannot be around any of her family.
- Sandy Doyel has an extremely high white cell blood count. She had further tests on Thursday.
- Jack Hewlett is in room 526 at Harris tower with fluid collecting around his heart. He was some better Sunday afternoon.
- Wayne Holly has been having dizzy spells. He had an MRI and will see a neurologist on January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Kidron Lehtinen will be having another MRI of his brain and spine on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Gene Threadgill had a procedure on Thursday. He will get the results of the tests on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Helen Threadgill is having problems with her knee that she had replaced. She saw the doctor on the January 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family of former member Johnny Brown. The funeral was Monday.

Also, our sympathy is extended to Jason and Amy Hackler and family in the passing of Jason's great uncle Maxwell Irving Gathings. He lived in Alabama.

## Responses

Gary Barger and Lonnie Polson responded to the invitation on Sunday morning. They both confessed sins and asked for the prayers of the congregation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. God Bless them.

## Please Note

- The elders, deacons and preachers breakfast and meeting will be Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast will be at the Sunrise Café.
- Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have singing in the annex. There will be no classes.
- We are in the process of compiling a new cookbook. Please give a copy of your favorite recipes to Jeri Allen. If you have any recipes for gluten free, diabetic, ethnic foods, please submit them also. The deadline has been extended to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 1/19

### Front South

Joshua Haynes  
Jason Hackler  
Justin Hopkins

### Back South

Jim Hudgins  
Bill Hughes  
James Hunt

### Front North

Kenneth Helm  
Dewayne Henegar  
Barry Lehtinen

### Back North

Daniel Hughes  
Doug Kilcrease  
Dennis Lane

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Sid Carruth

Sunday PM

John McGilvray

Wednesday PM

Justin Hewlett

Russ Jones

Luke Norman

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Russ Jones

Wednesday

Russ Jones

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Dale Ash

Sunday PM

Dale Ash

Wednesday PM

Rob Stidolph

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Wayne Gentry

## Collection Counting

Justin Hewlett / Ken Boroughs / Wayne Gentry

## Wed. PM Devotional (1/22)

Perry Elkins



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

Barabbas  
Matthew 27:15-26

PM

A Reason to Praise  
Psalm 113:1-9



## Listen to the Gospel!

### Luis and Mike in the Mornings

(Monday - Friday) from 7:00 am - 9:00 am cst on  
[KnowTheTruthRadio.org](http://KnowTheTruthRadio.org)

### Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am  
[btradio.net](http://btradio.net)



## Our Records

Bible Class .....	138
AM Worship.....	205
PM Worship .....	139
Wednesday Bible Class 1/8.....	123
Contribution .....	\$5,670

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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