

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## Mighty Men of Valor

Kevin W. Rhodes

Every great leader needs great followers, those who appreciate leadership, share the leader's vision, and commit themselves to the cause. While we remember David as the great warrior king of Israel, too easily we forget those who followed, whose sacrifice and answer to the call of faith contributed to the legacy of David and the benefit of all Israel. God does not forget, a fact made clear by the record He inspired listing those who helped David and who accomplished great feats of faith on their own in the process. "Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel" (1 Chr. 11:10). Rarely do we hear of Jashobeam's deed, killing three hundred at one time by spear (1 Chr. 11:1). We pass by Eleazar, Dodo's son, who stood his ground with David against the Philistines while others retreated and so turned the tide of battle (1 Chr. 11:12-14). We do not remember how three soldiers heard David longing for a drink from the well of Bethlehem when the Philistines held that city and then went through the ranks of the Philistines to honor their commander's wish—an act of courage that embarrassed David so much he refused to drink the water (1 Chr. 11:15-19). Abishai has become a footnote for most, though he killed three hundred and became a captain for David (1 Chr. 11:20-21). Benaiah we hardly know, despite his having killed great heroes of Moab, a lion, and a large Egyptian carrying only a staff (1 Chr. 11:22-25). Many others gladly followed David and fought bravely for him, including Asahel and Uriah the Hittite (1 Chr. 11:26-47). They were mighty men of valor, and yet we remember only David.

All these fought—not for their own cause, but for David's. They displayed tremendous courage—not for personal glory but for the leader they trusted. This displayed force of character that leads a man to give his all from the strength of loyalty he feels for his king deserves not only our attention but our emulation. The Lord needs more today willing to enter the fray simply to receive the commendation of the King (Mt. 25:21, 23). The kingdom needs more who will stand with the King and fight the enemy (Jas. 4:7; 2 Cor. 10:3-5) even when everyone else has turned in fear. The church should have more people who would gladly risk their own lives to fulfill the smallest request of their Lord (Jn. 14:15). Our God needs more who will fight and more who will lead (Isa. 6:8). He needs Christians willing to face the fiercest foe and even die for their Savior (1 Pet. 5:8; Phil. 1:21). Jesus seeks the same today—men mighty in faith and courageous in conduct ready to stand firm with their Lord.

### Shepherds

Sid Carruth  
Kenneth Helm  
Clark Lehtinen

### 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

Cleburne, Texas

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# Inherent Obedience - Part Two

Kevin W. Rhodes

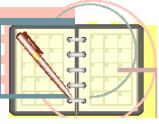
In an age defined by an overabundance of media, people often attempt to distinguish themselves through grand gestures that actually have far more symbolism than reality to them. This occurs in the spiritual realm as well—perhaps even more so. Ananias and Sapphira gave money to the church because they wanted the public adulation, having observed how people regarded Barnabas (Acts 5:1-11). Their giving certainly constituted a grand gesture, but their lie displayed their real character. The LORD said of Judah, “You have not obeyed Me in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and every one to his neighbor. Behold, I proclaim liberty to you,” says the LORD—“to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine! And I will deliver you to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth” (Jer. 34:17). Despite all attempts to maintain the facade of faithfulness, the simple fact of their disobedience mattered—even regarding a simple and straightforward command. A disciple obeys even in the little things. He does not evaluate a divine command according to how much he benefits personally or how many people will see it; he sees only that God has told him to do something. That is enough. A disciple does not obey from a desire of glory but from a heart of submission to his Lord.

The prophet Haggai received a difficult commission, the charge to call a slothful people back to work. And yet a simple statement in that Old Testament book reveals an attitude desperately needed today. It reads: “Then Haggai, the LORD’S messenger, spoke the LORD’S message to the people, saying, ‘I am with you, says the LORD’” (Hag. 1:13). He did not question. He did not quibble. Haggai simply spoke the LORD’S message because he was the LORD’S messenger. How simple

that sounds, and yet how essential it remains! A disciple obeys by responding positively to God’s message. It matters not what God’s message requires of you (all of those items that cause people to go searching for loopholes and excuses), it always requires obedience. And a disciple gives it—unquestioningly, from the heart. Discipleship appears simple when we hear it in principle, and so it is, but its essence lies not in what we agree to hear but in what we actually do. “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (Jas. 1:22).

Making obedience to God a part of how you think rather than just something that you do may seem like a distinction without a difference until you come face to face with persecution. Satan will stand aside and accept your obedience to God. He will fight relentlessly to regain what he has lost. He will probe for weakness, find your pressure points, and push your buttons until you react at the core level of who you are. This is why it is essential not just for you to have obeyed at some point but rather for you to learn to make obeying divine injunction the core of your being. When the high priest had Peter and John arrested a second time for working miracles and preaching Jesus, an angel freed them and sent them back to the temple to preach some more, which they did immediately. When once again arrested and confronted by the authorities, they stood firm once more, explaining their resolve in the simple declaration, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). A disciple obeys even in the face of persecution because he has prepared himself to do so—not by practicing resistance to torture but by strengthening his will to the acceptance of God’s will and no other.

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# News and Notes

## **Among our sick**

- Charlotte Freese had surgery at the Cleburne Surgical Center on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ola Mae Heffley is having problems with her back.
- R. B. Kirby, Don's brother, has an advanced case of staph. He has been moved to a rehab facility in Wichita Falls. His condition is very serious.
- Betty Rutledge is out of the hospital.
- Paul Wilkinson is having more tests.

## *Sympathy*

Our sympathy is extended to Dorothy, Steve, Carla and family in the passing of Bob Baze. The funeral was Wednesday.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Ruby Burnett, Barbara's former mother-in-law. Ruby passed away last Tuesday. The funeral was Saturday.

## *Baptism*

We rejoice that Shelley Hackler was baptized into Christ on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Kevin and Shelley's address is 1217 Hemphill, 76033. Kevin's cell phone number is 682-459-3719. Shelley's is 682-970-0994. We are so happy to have them in our family. God Bless!

## *Junior/Senior Banquet*

For many years, the congregation has provided a Junior/Senior banquet as a Christian alternative activity to the prom. We have three seniors and 3 juniors this year. Everyone who attends must make a commitment that they will dress modestly, and that they will not attend any prom. The chaperones pay their own way, so all funds collected will be used for the young people who attend the banquet. If you desire to contribute to this wholesome activity for you them you may give your donation to Tim or Melinda Norman, Bill or Carla Hughes, of one of the elders. Thank you in advance for your love for our young people and your support of this activity.

## **Please Note**

- Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Family Day will be starting at 10:30 in the annex. Ezra 8 will be the topic of study.
- The Gospel Journal sign up sheet is in the foyer for anyone who would like to subscribe. If there are ten that sign up the cost is \$18.00 per person. The regular cost is \$20.00.

## Those who Serve Lords' Supper: 2/23

### Front South

Jeff Day  
Kyle Day  
Dennis Lane

### Front North

Russ Jones  
Barry Lehtinen  
Clark Lehtinen

### Back South

James Hunt  
Jackie Mayden  
Dewayne Henegar

### Back North

Casey Lehtinen  
Jay Lehtinen  
Doug Kilcrease

## Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Justin Hewlett  
Perry Elkins

Sunday PM

Russ Jones  
Paul Doyel

Wednesday PM

Brandon Doyel

## Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Dale Ash

Wednesday

Dale Ash

## Song leaders:

Sunday AM

D. J. Stucky

Sunday PM

D. J. Stucky

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

## Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

James Hunt

## Collection Counting

Paul Murphy / Jeff Day / Kyle Day

## Wed. PM Devotional (2/26)

Casey Lehtinen



## Sermons for Sunday

AM

A Great Leader  
1 Chronicles 11:1-9

PM

Caring for Widows  
1 Timothy 5:3-8



## Listen to the Gospel!

### Granbury Street's Worship

LIVE every Sunday Morning at 10:00 am on  
KnowTheTruthRadio.org

### Luis and Mike in the Mornings

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

### Biblical Foundations with Pat McIntosh

(Tuesday - Thursday) 7:00 am or 11:00 am  
btradio.net



## Our Records

Bible Class .....	129
AM Worship.....	199
PM Worship .....	149
Wednesday Bible Class 2/12.....	141
Contribution .....	\$6,411

## Granbury Street Church of Christ

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