

From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

How God Prepares Illustrations

D. J. Stucky

Reading novels can sometimes be a puzzling experience. Imagine reading a book in your favorite genre. The writing is so incredible that you just cannot put it down. But then somewhere in chapter four the author describes an incredibly strange and seemingly random event. You are left scratching your head and wondering why this was included, but you brush it aside and continue reading. Finally, you get to the last chapter of the book and the author references the strange event from chapter four. Then it clicks. What seemed strange and unrelated was the key to understanding the plot the whole time! Even if you did not realize it at the time, the author knew exactly what was going on.

It is the same with God. There are times when we read something in the Old Testament that seems strange or random, but we can be assured that God has not included them by accident. God is a God of infinite purpose, and everything He records is there for our benefit (Rom. 15:4). This is precisely the case in Genesis 14:18-20.

After having saved Lot and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah from foreign kings, Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High (Gen. 14:18-20). Abram then gives tithes to the king of Salem, and this is the last that we hear of him. The next time we see his name is in Psalm 110:4. The reference to Melchizedek in this commonly quoted Messianic psalm is used to demonstrate that the Messiah would function as both king and priest, which was unheard of in the nation of Israel. We do not read about Melchizedek again until the book of Hebrews, where he is referenced nine different times (Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20, 7:1, 10, 11, 15, 17, 21). The Hebrews writer used Melchizedek to illustrate the fact that Jesus is a perfect High Priest and is superior to the Levitical priesthood under the Law. Melchizedek's priesthood is superior because Abraham, the father of the Israelites, paid tithes to him. It was established by God alone outside the confines of the law. It was not dependent on a specific genealogy. It is everlasting because we know neither where Melchizedek's priesthood begins or ends. This is the priesthood that Jesus is a part of. This seemingly random and unimportant event that occurred thousands of years ago was the illustration by which many Jewish Christians would come to understand the nature of Christ's role as High Priest. This was no accident, but a conscience choice on the part of our Creator. May we be amazed at the wisdom and intelligence of our God to provide everything we need to understand His will, even when we do not recognize it at the time.

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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Precious Lovingkindness

Kevin W. Rhodes

To want to be loved is a universal longing and common condition of all mankind. We crave it deeply—more than we typically are willing to admit. We long for approval, for acceptance, and a sense of belonging. We want someone to care what happens to us—good or bad. We want someone who feels for us during difficult times and rejoices with us during our victories, however small they might be. We want to feel valued and included and therefore to enjoy a sense of self-worth. This is why the hate and wickedness of men can take such a toll on us. A man who exalts himself over God will often do so at the expense of others as well. He does not care whom he may hurt along the way because he has no standard other than himself to follow. People like this put others down, walk over people, and spew hatred as part of the normal course of their lives. They fill the air with negativity and wickedness in an attempt to rise above all others to capture their heart's desire—even if it means piercing the hearts of others in the process. For many this is every day practice—hurting others by their words and actions without even realizing that they are putting their own hurt on display in the process.

David spoke of “the transgression of the wicked” in terms such as these (Psa. 36:1-4), but he followed it with a praise of the precious lovingkindness of the LORD that deserves all the attention our heart can muster. “Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the great mountains; Your judgments are a great deep; O LORD, You preserve man and beast. How precious is Your

lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings” (Psa. 36:5-7). When the LORD asks you to have faith in Him, He does so only after showing you just how much He loves you. David’s description of God’s love, offered in these glimpses of various attributes, show the immeasurable character of the love of God. He can be trusted above all others because He loves as no one else has loved. No matter what any man may do and no matter how much evil men may commit, the love of God still surpasses (Psa. 36:8-12). We should never let the sins of others cause us to doubt the love of God.

In the course of this life you will inevitably face a number of trials—trials of your patience, trials of your character, and trials of your faith. Satan will attack you through wicked men. He will attack you by attacking those whom you love. He will attack you by causing you to doubt yourself, doubt others, and doubt even God. And when these trials come, there is but one thought to consider: God is love (1 Jn. 4:8). He loved us enough to send His Son to die for us (Jn. 3:16). He loved us enough to make salvation for us possible even while we remained in the midst of our sin (Rom. 5:8). He loved us enough to sustain us in life and suffer long with us during our rebellion so that we could repent and return to Him once more (2 Pet. 3:9). The precious lovingkindness of the LORD surpasses the heights of heaven and the depths of the deep. It is indeed a great God who can love us this much. And this kind of love should motivate us to love Him and trust Him like no one else, for He is like no one else. He is our God, and He is love.



News and Notes

Prayer request...

- Gail Kilcrease is having tests run on her thyroid.
- Casey Lehtinen got to come home on Monday. He is very fatigued, but is otherwise doing well. Still waiting for the 2nd biopsy report to guide further treatment, and prepare for the next regiment of chemo. Express appreciation for everyone's thoughts and prayers on their behalf.
- Mary Reynolds had a procedure to burn the nerves in her back on Wednesday.
- Darla Stubblefield will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, November 8th, in Fort Worth.
- Ricky Threadgill remains in room 539 in Harris downtown. Hopefully he will be home by the weekend.
- Larry Thompson had a mini stroke on Monday but after tests at Huguley he is home doing better.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Morgan and Natalie Blair in the passing of their son Terrance. Services were Saturday. Morgan is the preacher for the Royal St. church of Christ in Cleburne.

Congratulations

Gavin McGilvray and Jessica Weimer were married Saturday, October 29th. Their address is 431 N. Wilhite, Cleburne, 76031. God Bless them with many years of happiness together!

Area-Wide Men's Fellowship

There will be an area-wide men's fellowship on November 12th at Cleburne State Park. A flyer is posted in the foyer. Men and boys of all ages are invited. RSVP to Russ Jones by next Sunday.

Please note...

- The youth devotional on November 6th will be at Hoby and Cyndi Hughes home in Grandview. Guys can bring drinks and girls can bring crackers or Fritos.
- Senior game night will be Tuesday November 11th at 6:00 PM in the annex.

Centurion of Scripture Challenge 2016 (NKJV)

John 4:24

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Those who Serve

Lords' Supper: 11/06

Front South

Tim Norman
Gene Threadgill
Ricky Threadgill

Front North

Robert Pennay
Clint Owens
Rob Stidolph

Back South

Melvin Owens
Howard Newberry
Weldon York

Back North

Mark Stubblefield
Larry Owens
Matthew Parrish

Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Russ Jones

Don Crecelius

Sunday PM

Clark Lehtinen

Tim Norman

Wednesday PM

Daniel Hughes

Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Justin Hewlett

Wednesday

Dale Ash

Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jeff McPherson

Sunday PM

Kyle Day

Wednesday PM

Jeff McPherson

Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

J. D. Allen

Collection Counting

Andrew Collins / Joshua Haynes

Wed. PM Devotional (11/9)

D. J. Stucky



Sermons for Sunday

AM

The Consequences of Strife
Judges 9:1-57

PM

Four Things God's People Need
Psalm 144:1-15

Calendar of Events



11/6

Youth Dovotional-Hoby Hughes

11/8

Senior game night

11/12

Men's Retreat at Cleburne State Park

11/19

Elders,deaconsandPreachers'meeting

11/22

Singing

11/23-27

Thanksgiving Holiday

11/30

Singing in the annex



Our Records

Bible Class	126
AM Worship.....	207
PM Worship	107
Wednesday Bible Class	133
Contribution	\$6,026

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