

# From Faith to Faith

Granbury Street Church of Christ

## A Destructive Puppet

Kevin W. Rhodes

**T**he final chapter of 2 Kings records Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem, brought on by the rebellion of Zedekiah, whom he had made king over Judah after deposing and taking captive Jehoiachin (2 Kings 25:1-2). The resulting chaos impoverished a destitute people, creating a famine for all holed up in the capital city (2 Kings 25:3). The army ultimately fled when the Babylonians breached the city wall, Zedekiah leaving also. However, Nebuchadnezzar pursued them, judged them, and executed Zedekiah's sons before blinding him and taking him to Babylon (2 Kings 25:4-7). Soon afterward, Nebuzaradan, following Nebuchadnezzar's orders, set fire to the temple and the palace, broke down the walls of Jerusalem, took all but a remnant of the population captive, and stripped away the last vestiges of wealth from the temple and its stores (2 Kings 25:8-17). Then, returning to Babylon with those considered leaders of the rebellion, the chief of the guard handed them over to Nebuchadnezzar who quickly had them executed (2 Kings 25:18-21).

Judah had already come under the control of Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, just as God had promised. However, Zedekiah, who had power only because of playing nice with Nebuchadnezzar in the first place, then wished for more and led a rebellion against the very one who had set him on the throne. For this he ultimately suffered greatly, as did multitudes of others. Sadly, this series of events has a spiritual parallel seen far too often. Due to spiritual weakness on the part of the people, someone comes to lead a congregation by means other than those designed by God. Seeking power originally, he ultimately wants even more—often rebelling against those who had been his allies. He will ultimately pay a tremendous price, but in the process, God's people, already hurting, already weak, already vulnerable, suffer even more. This is why we must learn to recognize a "puppet king" and never let him ascend to "the throne." A person interested in power and control, a person interested in building his resume and his reputation, a person interested in his future more than the congregation's is the wrong person to lead anyone else spiritually, and the damage he will create will be far greater than any immediate problem his presence will solve. The Jews did not need a king at this time; they needed to return as individuals to God. In these types of situations, that remains the best answer today as well.

### 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

Cleburne, Texas

Volume 10,  
Number 44

November 6,

2013

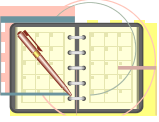
# Obedience Listens Carefully - Part Three

Kevin W. Rhodes

**A**long the path of obedience, you can hear many voices trying to help you along the way. Most wish to help; some wish to harm. But the reality remains that most do not know where to point you and therefore can end up pointing in the wrong direction. Therefore, listening carefully means listening to what God says—not to what others say, regardless of who they are and what spiritual claims they may make. During the time of the divided kingdom, the LORD called on a young prophet to speak on His behalf, giving him precise instructions in the process. However, while he delivered God’s message without fail and without compromise, an older prophet convinced him to ignore the LORD’s other instructions by telling him that he also had a message from the LORD. “Then he said to him, ‘Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you.’ And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him” (1 Kings 20:36). Discipleship requires a laser-like vision focused on God’s Word and God’s Word alone. The moment we allow some man’s opinion—including the opinion of someone we know and love—to have equal standing with the inspired text, we sacrifice discipleship for a very different relationship. While the Bible does have some difficult passages, to be sure (2 Pet. 3:15-16), much of the time what keeps us from true, obedient discipleship is giving someone other than Jesus our loyalty. “You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (Gal. 5:7).

Somewhere along the way we learned a very different listening style. We grew to listen for what validates our own ideas, our own opinions, and our own self-worth instead of listening for truth, for what God says, and for what will help us eternally. Disciples must learn to listen with a heart open to these things so that they prepare themselves to embrace God’s will thankfully instead of rejecting it out of hand. God’s will must remain the focus of listening and the heart of learning, even when that proves to be difficult. Listening carefully is only possible with a mind open to truth. By establishing divine truth as the goal, both in understanding and in action, disciples can then have a firm foundation by which to determine right and wrong, truth and error, instead of relying on limited experience or others’ opinions (1 Th. 5:21-22). The truth, once recognized, need not fear further examination. Indeed, it encourages it, both to mature the disciple and serve as the foundation against the future but sure onslaughts of Satan who will twist and manipulate scripture using spiritual posers to distract people from the truth. As Paul told one group of early Christians, “O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?” (Gal. 3:1). For such an attitude ensures the ongoing process of growth, eliminating ideas foreign to scripture and embracing the wisdom offered to mankind by a living and loving God.

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# News and Notes

## Among our sick

- Ken Boroughs saw the liver specialist on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Sandy Doyel continues to have problems with her blood sugar and other health problems.
- Charlotte Freese's surgery on her left knee will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at Hunt Regional Hospital in Greenville. She will have surgery on her right knee three months later.
- Dorothy Harrell has been moved to Pecan Manor Nursing and Rehab Center; 413 E. Mansfield Cardinal, Room #1-B; Kennedale, TX 76060. She will be getting her own phone soon.
- James Henslee's cataract surgery on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, went well.
- Helen Henslee had back surgery Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at North Texas Methodist Hospital.
- Jack Hewlett is still weak but is improving. If you do visit him, please keep your visits very short for Jack's sake.
- Rhonda Holden, Wayne Holly's sister, is in room 222 at Walls with complications from her bout with cancer.
- Jacque Honecker had stints put in her heart Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at Hood County Hospital.
- Deb Stidolph has not been feeling well for about a week.
- Ruth Wilson's daughter, Jessie, who lives in Idaho, had surgery to remove her eye on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

## *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Everyone is invited to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Charles and Dianne Melton on Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 in the afternoon at Rio Vista Civic Center 201 Highway 14 South. Hosted by their son Deon Melton. No gifts please.

## *Baby Shower*

The ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring Dana Stucky on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, from 1:30—3:00 in the annex. She is registered at Target. The baby is a girl.

## **Please Note**

- Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 55 years and older game night will be at 6:00 PM in the annex. Please come and bring snacks and games.
- Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, the elders, deacons, and preachers' breakfast will be at Sunrise Cafe at 100 Poindexter with a meeting to follow at the building.
- Bible Search will be Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like to help with the drinks and cookies see Glenda Helm. The last training on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, will be a rehearsal for the participants only.

## Those who Serve

### Lords' Supper: 11/10

#### Front South

Bill Cashion  
Andrew Collins  
Jordan Collins

#### Front North

Don Crecelius  
Jeff Day  
Kyle Day

#### Back South

Perry Elkins  
Royce Gorman  
Cody Grinnell

#### Back North

Vince Grinnell  
Joshua Haynes  
Patrick Kaiser

### Leading prayers:

Sunday AM

Kenneth Helm  
J. D. Allen

Sunday PM

Joshua Haynes  
Doug Jones

Wednesday PM

Kyle Day

### Announcements:

Sunday AM-PM:

Russ Jones

Wednesday

Clark Lehtinen

### Song leaders:

Sunday AM

Jason Hackler

Sunday PM

Jason Hackler

Wednesday PM

Sid Carruth

### Foyer Personnel:

Sunday & Wednesday

Barry Lehinen

### Collection Counting

Paul Murphy / Jeff Day / Kyle Day

### Wed. PM Devotional (11/13)

Pat McIntosh



### Sermons for Sunday

AM

Starting Over  
Hosea 2:14-23

PM

My Rock  
Psalm 18:1-50



### 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 .....	156
AM Worship.....	226
PM Worship .....	170
Wednesday Bible Class 10/30.....	125
Contribution .....	\$7,152

### Granbury Street Church of Christ

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