

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

February 2, 2020

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:17

David and his New Cart

B. C. Goodpasture
(Scriptures taken from the ASV)

Jehovah called David from the sheepcotes of Bethlehem to the throne of Israel. One of his first cares, on becoming king, was to obtain possession of the stronghold of Zion, and this very thing he did. "And David dwelt in the stronghold, and called it the city of David. And David built round about from Millo and inward. And David waxed greater and greater..." (2 Sam. 5:9-10).

It is worthy of note here that David "perceived that Jehovah had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for his people Israel's sake" (2 Sam. 5:12). In receiving the blessings of God, unlike many, he did not fail to recognize the God of the blessings. Next, after Zion had been occupied, David desired to bring the ark of the covenant up to Jerusalem from Kirjath-jearim, where it had been left after being restored by the Philistines in the early days of Samuel (1 Sam. 7:1). Elaborate preparations were made to bring up this treasure.

GATHERING OF THOUSANDS

"David again gathered together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand" (2 Sam. 6:1). Someone has well said, "In bringing up the ark to Jerusalem, the king showed a commendable desire to interest the whole nation, as far as possible, in the solemn service. The people, numerous as they were, grudged neither the time, the trouble, nor the expenses. A handful might have suffered for all the actual labor that was required, but thousands of the chief people were summoned to be present, and that of the principle both of rendering due honor to God and of conferring a benefit to the people." It is not a few preachers, elders, and deacons only that should be called to take a part in the service of religion. Christians generally should manifest an abiding interest in the worship and service of the Lord. It does not require a large audience to "break bread," conduct a Sunday night worship, or a Wednesday prayer meeting, but it is infinitely better for all who can attend these meetings.

DOING THE RIGHT THING IN THE WRONG WAY

No one can doubt that it was right to remove the ark under proper conditions, for God told His people how it should be moved (Num. 4:1-16) — that is, it should be carried by the Levites. Also it was right to bring it to Jerusalem. But the great trouble in this case came through the use of "a more modern method" of transportation by David.

The Philistines, in bringing up the ark from Ekron to Beth-shemesh, had used a new cart (1 Sam. 6:7), and used it successfully. So, instead of following the instructions given through Moses, David copied the example of the Philistines. The "new cart" seemed to work well for a while. The procession had reached "Nachon's threshing floor," when the "oxen stumbled," and Uzzah, putting forth his hand to (cntd. pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 1/26/20

Contribution — \$2440

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Classes — 35

Sunday Worship* — 59

Wednesday Night — 42

*Total for the day

WORKS SUPPORTED:

Marlon Retana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

The Gospel of Christ TV Program
Sundays:
6:30am - Ch. 8.3 (CW) 7:00am - Ch. 39.1

Listen to our radio station!
FM 102.5 KCXB-LP - The Beacon of Truth
Available online 24/7
at beaconcofc.com

Sermon Spotlight:

AM — Final Instructions

1. What final instructions do we find Christ leaving His disciples in each gospel account?
2. Did first century Christians act on these instructions?
3. What about us?

PM — Hebrews Chapter 5

1. What is the meaning of verse 9?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconcofc.com

Preacher

Chase Green
318-608-7418

Elders

Bill Schooley 318-396-7296
Tim Green 318-547-4026

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Margie Tippen, Regina Simmons, Joy Skipper, Kaitlyn Wilson, Tim Green, Debbie Grice, Virginia Wainwright, Stetson Ortega, Bettie Young, Wendy Traweek, Dewey Young, Scarlet Schooley, Judy May, Martin Hattaway, Marcia Green

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Youth & Young Adults: Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers. If you would like to help host an event in the future, please let Chase know!
- Monthly Ladies' Luncheon: See Sharon for more details!
- Monthly Fellowship Meal: 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted.
- VBS & Gospel Meeting with Dr. Brad Harrub: July 19th to 22nd. Will be here before we know it! Be planning to attend and help support this great event!

(Continued from page 1)

to stay the ark, was smitten dead (2 Sam. 6:6-7). The ark was left in the house of Obed-edom, and the thousands disbanded.

Why all this trouble? Had Uzzah sinned in that he touched the ark? Yes, but someone had sinned in this matter before Uzzah. Speaking to the Levites, David said, "For because ye bare it not at the first, Jehovah our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not according to the ordinance" (1 Chron. 15:13). Thus, David located the trouble at the right place. The king and his people had tried to do a good work in a bad way.

It is frequently said that the end justifies the means, but it did not in this case. What matter is it, some of this generation say, if the money has been obtained in ways that are not commendable, just so it is used for the poor or the preaching of the word? Does it matter how or by whom the gospel is preached, if the evangelization of the nations is the purpose? Does it make any difference what is done in worship, if it is all intended for the glory of God? All who speak after this fashion should remember that David could have asked, "What difference does it make how we move the ark, just so we bring it to Jerusalem?" with as much show of reason as they. It is never right to set aside God's way of doing things for man's way.

One great hindrance to primitive Christianity today is the use of Philistine carts in the service of the Lord. They may seem to make some show of success for a time, but sooner or later — usually sooner — the "oxen stumble," and they fail ...

DOING THE RIGHT THING IN THE RIGHT WAY

David could never have been a man after God's "own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14) if he had been unwilling to confess his sins and make amends for them. The ark remained in the house of Obededom for three months. In the meantime, David grew in respect for the word of God, for he said, "None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath Jehovah chosen to carry the ark of God" (1 Chron. 15:2 ASV). God's way was employed. It worked. "The Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon" to Jerusalem in triumph and joy. How different the result from that of the first effort! How different the means employed! "As for God, his way is perfect" (Psa. 18:30).

Blessed are the Merciful

Chase Green

Matthew 5:7 - "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

As Jesus continues discussing those who will be spiritually blessed, He emphasizes two aspects of mercy — human mercy, and God's mercy. Harken back to what Jesus said in His model prayer — "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," (Matt. 6:12), stating "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses," (Mat. 6:14-15).

God's mercy upon us cannot be separated from our mercy upon one another. While it is obviously true that merely being merciful towards others is not a "straight ticket to heaven," and certainly an honest reading of the Bible in its entirety will not lead one to infer that, it is also true that God's mercy **cannot** be obtained if we refuse to be merciful ourselves.

Far too many people desire God's forgiveness, but are unwilling themselves to forgive others. That doesn't mean, though, that forgiveness is automatic. In the Bible, forgiveness is always preceded by REPENTANCE (among other things). The same is the case from person to person. "If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and **if he repent**, forgive him" (Luke 17:3, emphasis mine throughout, TCG).

Some, like the disciples, may think that there is a limit to how many times we should forgive someone. After all, it can be extremely frustrating when people keep doing the same hurtful things to us. Peter asked, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?" (Matt. 18:21). Jesus responded figuratively, "I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven" (Matt. 18:22). In other words, we should be willing to forgive a complete number of times (seventy times seven); that is to say, "as many times as it takes/occurs." There should never be a limit to how many times we show someone mercy. Using similar language, Jesus said "And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, **I repent**; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:4).

Finally, also consider the disproportionate amount we must forgive others, compared to how much the Father in heaven forgives us. Recall the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt. 18:23-35), in which a man is forgiven a great debt, but then goes and ruthlessly demands payment of a much smaller debt that someone owed him. This man ends up being mercilessly punished, because he was unwilling to show someone else mercy. This serves as an extremely important example of the principle of Matthew 5:7. May we all strive to be merciful, and may the Lord have mercy upon US!

With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Matt. 5:7