

The Bellville Proclaimer

Bellville Church of Christ

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November 20, 2011

BUSY HERE AND THERE

Richard Kirkland

The interesting story of 1 Kings 20 provides an important lesson for us. The setting of this text is during the reign of King Ahab of Israel. Ahab was a wicked king. But God was going to use him anyway to destroy King Ben-hadad of Aram who was even more wicked than Ahab. The time came and the opportunity for Ben-hadad to die. But rather than kill him, Ahab made a covenant with him and let him go. God was not pleased.

Now God spoke to a certain prophet and told him how to take the message of His displeasure to the king. The prophet disguised himself as a soldier who had been given a captured enemy soldier to guard. "As the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, 'Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and behold, a man turned aside and brought a man to me and said, 'Guard this man; if for any reason he is missing, then your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver. While your servant was busy here and there he was gone.' And the king of Israel said to him, 'So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it.' Then he hastily took the bandage away from his eyes, and the king of Israel recognized him that he was of the prophets. He said to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."' (1 Kings 20:39-42).

The prophet uses an expression that, although not uncommon today, speaks to a very disturbing problem among Christians today. He said, "While your servant was busy here and there he was gone." We are busy people. We have many concerns that distract us from the service we know we ought to give to God. We don't give enough thought to the consequences of our inattention. While we are busy here and there with urgent matters that are not important, we are allowing the most important and significant matters to be neglected and unattended to.

While we are "busy here and there" we are losing our souls! Think about it, is it important for us to be involved in every social activity in our communities? Is it necessary that we attend the next music concert or college/professional ballgame? Is it necessary for us to work that second job just to have a little extra to spend on

more entertainment, a bigger house or nicer car? Is it needful for our churches to embrace whatever the newest fad or craze is in religion? All of these things, while maybe not sinful or wrong in and of themselves, become wrong when they distract us from the most important responsibility God has given to each of us—the responsibility of caring for our soul making absolutely sure that we are saved.

It is time to be honest with ourselves. Are we doing our best? Are we being diligent to guard the soul that God has given to us for safekeeping? Or, are we distracted and occupied with trivial matters? God will hold us accountable. If we are too "busy here and there" to care for our souls, God will say that we are just too busy to go to Heaven!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our nation; Our outreach programs; BICA; Our country's armed forces including Matt Laas, Jon Beach, Travis Little, David Wolfskill, Matt Sweeney and Jeremy Wilson; RAIN; Wesley Drones; Hugh Anderson; Anna Mae Hartsell; Bill Pereyra; Jolie Fricks; Paula Griffith; Charlie Middlebrook; Rex Kennedy; Vicki Marshal, friend of the Bluemels; Caleb Crowe; Mark Birdwell; Wayman Bradley; Wayne & June Campbell, Kevin's parents; Patricia Hill, Elouise Harris' cousin; Hanna Boyd, the Tubbs' granddaughter; Brian Smith of Hempstead, heart problems; Madison Hyde; WBS students; Don & Melba Bentley, Judy Williams' parents; Maxine Roche, Carolyn Pereyra's aunt.

ABOUT US...

There will be no bulletin next week.

★ Of course with the holiday this week, there will be no Ladies' Bible Class; however, the lesson next week will be *Encourage One Another*.

★ Recent visitors: Bryan Husky of College Station, Bobby's & Beverly's son.

★ Jack Jones, friend of Richard's and one of the elders in Russellville passed away last week. Richard returned to Arkansas to officiate at his funeral.

★ On December 15th, Betty Wilkes is hosting a brunch for all women of the congregation to be followed by our Bible Class. Rides will be available for those who need it.

★ Mark Birdwell is still having serious problems with the cyst in his kidney, and at bulletin time, was waiting to be readmitted to the hospital.

★ Check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for things needed for our Christmas party. Sign up for what you would like to do and come have fun! Also bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$5.00 to be exchanged.

SPECIAL DAYS

- 🕯️ November 23rd David & Brenda Johnson
- 🕯️ November 24th John Harris
- 🕯️ November 24th Kevin & Laura Campbell
- 🕯️ November 25th Jo-Ann Stover
- 🕯️ November 26th David Johnson
- 🕯️ December 2nd Bret Laughter
- 🕯️ December 3rd Vernon Mensch

THOSE TO SERVE TODAY

A.M. Service

- Greeters—Joe & Phyllis Bluemel
- Announcements—David Johnson
- Song leader—Hugh Tubbs
- Scripture Reading & First prayer—Don Wilkes
- Communion—Pat Callahan, Joe Bluemel, Kevin Campbell
- Closing Prayer—Dan Laas
- Anchor Man in Back—Brett Laughter
- Attendance records—John Harris
- Nursing Home Songs—Hugh Tubbs

P.M. Service

- Song Leader—Hugh Tubbs
- First Prayer—David Johnson
- Communion—Buddy Brockett
- Closing Prayer—Bobby Husky

*A heart enlarged by love
has never yet killed anyone.*

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817 East Wendt
Bellville, TX77418

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- December 9th Christmas Party 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall
- December 15th 10:00 AM Brunch/Ladies' Class @ Betty Wilkes' house
- December 31st Devo/Fun Mensch Home Snacks @ 4 PM Meal @ 6 PM

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- Sunday: BibleClass _____ 9:00 A.M.
- Worship _____ 10:00 A.M.
- Evening Services _____ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Evening _____ 7:00 P.M.
- Thursday: Ladies' Bible Class _____ 10:00 A.M.
- Devotional at Briarwood Manor _____ 1st Sunday
- Devotional at Colonial Belle _____ 3rd Sunday
- Fellowship Meal _____ 2nd Sunday of each month
- Sandwich Supper _____ Last Sunday evening of each month

LOVE IN ACTION LAST WEEK

- Bible Class _____ 36
- Worship _____ 47
- Sunday Evening Worship _____ 26
- Contribution _____ \$2056.50
- (Weekly Budget Requirement _____ \$1804)
- Wednesday Evening _____ 28
- Ladies' Class _____ 13



Let us come before Him with thanksgiving let us sing Him a psalm of praise. **Ps 95:2**