

The Best I Can Do

I was training a young preacher who told me the sermon he presented one Sunday was the best he could do. I doubted his conclusion and probed further. “*When did you write this sermon outline?*” I asked. “*Last night,*” he replied. “*I was up until 2:00 a.m. finishing the final draft. I got up at 6:00 to review it. I did my best under the circumstances. What more could I do?*”

My answer was to change his circumstances. If this is the best you can do on 4 hours of sleep then get 6 hours. If this is the best you can do on Saturday night then start on Friday. If this is the best you can give with a cramped schedule then open up your schedule. I told him I could run a hundred yard dash quicker with tennis shoes and light weight clothing than I could with a 50 pound back pack and combat boots. My best effort under self imposed restraints is not really my best effort. I need to adjust whatever is hindering me from doing better.

I've known teens who fell asleep in worship and said they were doing their best to stay awake. Actually they were doing their best after getting 3 hours sleep after a Saturday night party. I've known adults who arrived late to services and said it was the best they could do with traffic. Actually it was the best they could do with refusing to leave the house earlier. It is like the member who puts a dollar in the contribution basket because he spent all the rest of his paycheck on his recreation. He gave all he had....left over.

Let's use the body, mind, money, and strength God gave us to give Him our actual best.
Ron Roberts

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

May 7, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Editor: Ron Roberts
(317) 851-6777
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**“Only speak
when it is an
improvement
on silence”**

Check the bulletin board for area Gospel meetings. These are good opportunities to grow in knowledge of the Lord, encourage area brethren, and to strengthen the reputation of our congregation. Why not ask some other members of Mooresville to go with you to a nearby meeting?

We wish to express our sympathy to the Daniels family over the recent loss of Jesse and James grandfather.

Continue to pray for those with poor health. Remember Bob, Erma, Lucille, and others in your prayers.

Welcome to our visitors. If you would like a home Bible study please let us know. We want to share the Gospel of Jesus with everyone.

The Roberts go to Tennessee on May 21-26 for a Gospel meeting. We appreciate the opportunity to go and are thankful for the capable men who fill in for Ron in his absence.

I Feared There Was No Fear

Ron Roberts

When Abraham came to the land of Gerar he claimed Sarah was his sister. This led to Abimelech taking her to his house. In a dream God warned the man saying, “*thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man’s wife.*” (Gen. 20:3)

The man protested his innocence. He did not realize she was married. Abraham did not reveal she was his wife. God told Abimelech He would spare him if he returned the wife and asked Abraham to pray for him. This he did, and then he asked why Abraham had put him in this dangerous predicament in the first place.

“*And Abraham said, Because I thought, Surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will slay me for my wife’s sake.*” (Gen. 20:11)

Abraham **feared there was no fear of God** in Gerar. If there was no fear of God, he reasoned the people would behave immorally. He was right. It is the respect of God that causes people to do the right thing generally. This is seen throughout the Scriptures.

In Luke 18 Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge. He is described in verse 2 as **not fearing God** or regarding man. This judge would not do the right thing for a widow until her persistent antagonizing of him led him to grant her request. He would not do it for fear of God, concern for her, or because it was the proper thing to do.

When the good thief on the cross rebuked the other thief he asked him if he **did not fear God?** The two thieves were dying and preparing to face God in judgment. They were being executed for their crimes. To ridicule the righteous Jesus at such a time indicating a lack of understanding and respect for God. Our behavior tells others how we feel about God. Immorality, violence, cursing, and selfishness shows others we do not respect God or regard His will. The opposite is true as well. Reverence toward God manifests itself in good behavior.

Eccl. 12:13 makes it clear that our purpose in life is to *fear God and keep His commandments*. The fear comes first and produces the obedience that follows. Prov. 7:1 says *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge*. When we believe in God, respect His power, and anticipate His judgment we will understand the truth. This knowledge leads to obedience which leads to salvation.

The world in which we live displays there is **no fear of God** in this place. Our government has authorized homosexual marriages. The violence grows day by day. People marry and divorce with no regard to the Scriptural authority of their actions. Men will steal, kill, and molest others as long as the law allows it or they think they can escape the punishment. Women dress immodestly. Children curse their parents. Men are entertained with pornography. Surely there is **no fear of God** in this place. But what about us? And what about Abraham?

Because Gerar did not **fear God** did that mean Abraham was allowed to lie? Does our neighbors lack of respect toward God authorize us to not honor His will? We sometimes act as if we are more afraid of men and what they will do to us than we are afraid of God and what He can do to us. Jesus knew of this tendency and told us, “*...fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*” (Matt. 10:28).

Abraham acted foolishly. The people of Gerar could not kill the prophet of God. He had lost track of the promise. He would be a great nation. He could not die childless. Abimelech might have tried to kill Abraham and steal Sarah, but God would have stopped him.

In regards to Abraham’s conclusion; there probably was no fear of God in the land before God’s visit to Abimelech. The revealing of God’s power brought fear to the people that was likely not there before.

We must be careful to not let the lack of fear of God among our nation cause us to behave as if we did not fear Him. Their fear may come if we teach them. We must fear, obey, and share God.