

## Funeral Meditation for a Godly Man

Brian Griffiths

July 28, 2010

Brian lived in the sufficient grace of God for a good chunk of his adult life.

He was a breath of fresh air.

He prayed for us often.

He was full of courage.

Brian Griffiths was a unique man, with unique talents and unique gifts for ministry. So I suppose it's fitting that I would choose a unique passage of Scripture for this memorial service!

I'm reading today from 1 Chronicles 28. David had been preparing for his magnum opus. He planned to build the temple – a place for God to dwell – a place of worship for the nation.

1 Chronicles 28:1-3 NLT

*David summoned all the officials of Israel to Jerusalem—the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the army divisions, the other generals and captains, the overseers of the royal property and livestock, the palace officials, the mighty men, and all the other brave warriors in the kingdom. David rose to his feet and said: “My brothers and my people! It was my desire to build a temple where the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant, God’s footstool, could rest permanently. I made the necessary preparations for building it, but God said to me, ‘You must not build a temple to honor my name, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.’*

David had wanted to build a temple. And who better than he to do so? He had written the book on worship! He had rescued the Ark of the Covenant! The temple would have been his swan song, his signature deed. David had expected to dedicate his final years to building a shrine to God.

At least, that had been his desire. It was his plan. His intention. In v. 2 he said, “It was my desire to build a temple where the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant...could rest permanently. I made the necessary preparations for building it,” (1 Chron. 28:2 NLT).

Intentions. Preparations. But no temple. Why? Did David grow discouraged? No. He stood willing. Were the people resistant? Hardly. They gave generously. Then what happened?

A conjunction happened.

Conjunctions operate as the signal lights of sentences. Some conjunctions, such as *and*, are green. Others, such as *however*, are yellow. A few are red. Sledgehammer red. They stop you. And David got a red light!

It was my desire to build a temple, *but God...* That stops everybody, including David!

*But* God said to me, 'You must not build a temple to honor my name, for you are a warrior and have shed much blood.... Your son Solomon will build my Temple and its courtyards' (1 Chr 28:2-3, 6 NLT)

David's participation in war cost him the temple privilege. All he could do was say:

I had intended ...  
I had made preparations ...  
But God ...

Today I'm thinking of some people who have uttered similar words. God had different plans than they did.

One man waited until his midthirties to marry. Resolved to select the right spouse, he prayerfully took his time. When he found her, they moved to Alberta, bought a ranch, and began their life together. After three short years, she was killed in a car accident.

It was my desire...I made plans...But God ...

A young couple turned a room into a nursery. They papered walls, refinished a baby crib, but then the wife miscarried.

We had intended ... We had made preparations ... But God ...

What do you do with the "but God" moments in life? When God interrupts your good plans, how do you respond? And what about David? When God changed David's plans, how did he reply? He followed the "but God" with a "yet God."

He says, in 1 Chronicles 28:4...

"Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, has chosen me from among all my father's family to be king over Israel forever..."

I think that's pretty cool! David is not complaining! Yes, he had intentions to build the temple. But God had different plans. He gave David a red light.

And David follows the red light of "But God" with a "Yet God..."

"Yet the Lord has chosen me from among all my father's family..."

David had gone from runt to royalty,  
from herding sheep to leading armies,  
from sleeping in the pasture  
to living in the palace.

David faced a mountain of disappointment with “yet God.” He was a man after God’s own heart, and he knew that God could be trusted, even in times of disappointment.

With the same attitude Brian faced death.

He had intended to do more...  
He had made preparations to do more...  
But God...had different plans.

And so Brian also faced his “but God” experience with a “yet God” response.

He could face that mountain of disappointment because of his deep and abiding relationship with Jesus. He knew Jesus. He loved Jesus. And he followed Jesus as the Lord and Master of his life. Brian was a man who loved God with his whole being, and he was all about helping others find faith in Christ and helping them to grow in grace and in freedom.

So if we really want to honor Brian in his life and in his death, we will follow Jesus, too.

Brian would want me to remind you that God loves you and wants you to experience peace and eternal life.

The Bible says...

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

But many people do not have this peace and abundant life that Jesus spoke about because they have chosen to disobey God and go their own way. And that choice always results in separation from God.

The Bible says...

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God... But there is only one bridge that reaches God, and only one.

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

The Bible says...

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice. We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says...

"Yet to all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

So, if you are living apart from faith in Jesus Christ today, nothing... *nothing*... would please God more, and nothing would make Brian happier, than for you to receive Christ as your Saviour.

Remember: David faced a mountain of disappointment with "yet God."

Brian Griffiths turned death into a servant with "yet God."

And you can begin a brand new life today with a "yet God" response to the gospel.