

**Those to Serve**

(B) Kevin Grant  
(FV) Keith Stifflemire  
(O) Jorge Garza  
(A) Jack Wall  
  
1st prayer Mike Mallett  
2nd prayer Doug Pruitt  
Announcements: Jack Wall  
Singing: Judd Wall

**September 25th**  
Noon Fellowship  
Friend & Family Day  
  
**October 2nd**  
Mission Sunday  
**October 10th**  
Columbus Day  
**October 30**  
Noon Fellowship

**Prayer List:**

Diane Savage (Virginia's niece)  
Cheryl Burks  
Virginia Lovell  
Dora Martinez  
Letha Sheldon  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

**Sunday Sept. 25th**  
**Join Us for**  
**Friends & Family Day**

**As We Explore God's  
Marvelous Creation!**

- **9:30 The Science of Creation**
- **10:20 God Made Them Male and Female**
- **11:30 Lunch provided by the church**
- **12:30 The Scientific Foreknowledge of The Bible**

**Happy Anniversary**

**Terry & Haley Day Oct 15th**

**Happy Birthday**

**Vernon Houts Sept. 24th**  
**Judy Grant Sept. 28th**  
**Autumn Vann Sept. 29th**  
**Judd Wall Oct. 10th**

# **Edifier**

**Evant church of Christ**

**310 W Brooks Drive**

**Evant, TX 76525**

**254-471-5705**

**September 18, 2022**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

**Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: wvvann@yahoo.com**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

## **Breaking Bad**

### **2 Kings 6:24-33**

"Breaking Bad is an American crime drama television series that follows Walter White an underpaid, overqualified, and dispirited high-school chemistry teacher who is struggling with a recent diagnosis of stage-three lung cancer. White turns to a life of crime and partners with a former student to produce and distribute crystal meth to secure his family's financial future before he dies" (Wikipedia). Even though I have never seen this show, and from what I know about it would recommend it to anyone, the title says it all. When a person is pushed past the breaking point they will do one of two things, they will either 'break good,' i.e. come to themselves like the prodigal son in Luke 15 and turn their life around, or they will 'break bad' like Jehoram in 2 Kings 6 and turn away completely from the only one that could help him.

We read in 2 Kings chapter 6 one of the most heart-rending, and stomach-churning accounts in all of Scripture. While examining this particular event, one commentator simply stated, "We pass over this awful paragraph with a minimum of comment." This event happened during the life of Elisha, while Jehoram the son of Ahab, and Jezebel was king in Samaria. The Syrians had besieged this great city causing a famine that would ultimately result in Jehoram 'breaking bad.' The event which took place during the famine that caused Jehoram to 'break' is found starting in verse 26 when "the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, 'Help, my lord, O king!' And he said, 'If the Lord does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?' Then the king said to her, 'What is troubling you?' And she answered, 'This woman said to me, 'Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, 'Give your son, that we may eat him;' but she has hidden her son" (2 Kings 6:26-29).

It is not surprising that this traumatic scene, arriving amid prolonged suffering, would cause Jehoram to 'break.' We understand that even a light burden can become unbearable with enough time. Recall, if you would, the physical strength of Samson, that it could not withstand the constant dripping that was Delilah "when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to

(Continued on Pg 3)

Pg2

## **A Man Is A Liar When....**

Acts 5:1-4

**(Continued from Pg 6)**

- 5) He attains **ill-gotten wealth** (Prov. 21:6).
- 6) He **beguiles others** with lying flattery (Prov. 26:25-28).
- 7) He refuses to "**hear the law of the Lord**" (Isa. 30:9).
- 8) He takes **advantage** of the poor (Isa. 32:7).
- 9) He **apostatizes** from the Lord's teaching (Isa. 59:13).
- 10) He "**trusts in lying words**" (Jer. 7:8-10).
- 11) He **speaks lying words** and says, "**It's by the Lord's authority**" (Jer. 29:23).
- 12) He **prepares "lying and corrupt words"** (Dan. 2:9).
- 13) He "**observes lying vanities**" (Jonah 2:8).
- 14) He makes an "**alliance**" with Satan (2 Thess. 2:8-10; cf. Jn. 8:44; 1 Jn. 3:8).
- 15) He "**walks**" in falsehood (Mic. 2:11).
- 16) He lies to the **Holy Spirit and to God** (Acts 5:3-4).
- 17) He lies to **another person** (Col. 3:9).
- 18) He is a **hypocrite** (1 Tim. 4:2)
- 19) He lies against **God's Truth** (Jam. 3:14).
- 20) He "**walks in darkness**" (1 Jn. 1:6).
- 21) He says, "**we have no sin**" (1 Jn. 1:8).

### **Conclusion**

Brethren, let's make **certain** that we don't fall into any one of the above categories of lying to either our fellow man or to God. Let's not only **keep our promises** (cf. Num. 30:2; Dt. 23:21; Eccl. 5:4-5) but let what **we "say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil"** (Mt. 5:37 - ESV). Let us remember that there will be no "**liars**" in heaven (Rev. 21:8, 27).

**By Mike Riley**

## A Man Is A Liar When....

Acts 5:1-4

*But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." (ESV)*

### Introduction

Have you ever considered yourself a **liar**? Not many folks have, but let's consider the following:

- 1) Have we ever been guilty of telling someone, "**Yes, I'll do this and that and such-and-such,**" and then **never follow through** with our promise?
- 2) Have we ever told someone that we'll be at a certain place at a certain time and **never show up?**
- 3) Have we ever promised our children (or our wife) certain things and **never fulfilled our promise** to them?

I'm certain that all of us as frail human beings can relate to some (if not all) of these things (**I know this writer can!**). We need to ask ourselves, can we leave our promises **unfulfilled** and not be counted as "**liars**" before the throne of God? Let's sincerely and honestly "**think**" about the following:

### According To God's Word, A Man Is A Liar When....

- 1) He loves "**lying rather than to speak righteousness**" (Psa. 52:3).
- 2) He displays a **prideful attitude** (Psa. 59:12).
- 3) He speaks with "**A lying tongue against the righteous**" (Psa. 109:2).
- 4) He hates someone and "**pretends**" he doesn't (Prov. 10:18).

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## Breaking Bad

**2 Kings 6:24-33**

**(Continued from Pg 2)**

death" (Judges 16:16-17). Contemplate also the mental strength of Job and how it was eroded by the deluge that was his life; "After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth" (Job 3:1). See even that bastion of strength, the apostle Paul, was brought low when he admitted, "we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves" (2 Cor. 1:8-9). Notice that in each of these examples, the burden that they were each placed under while being different, brought them all to the point that death seemed to be the only escape. Grab a can out of the pantry and hold it out 90 degrees from your body. It weighs just under a pound so you probably won't even notice the weight for the first few seconds. However, after enough time paces the muscles in your shoulder will begin to burn. This happens because your brain believes that the prolonged pressure being placed on your shoulder is harmful to you and is signaling you to stop. The longer you continue to hold it the greater the pain will become. How long someone can hold the can up will differ from person to person. One person may hold the can for a minute before their muscles give out and they drop it. Another may hold it for an hour, but then the intense pain causes them to drop the can before their muscles fail. While different people may break at different times, or for different reasons, one thing stands true, when enough pressure is applied, we all break.

One thing we ought to realize is that Jehoram was a big contributor to his own suffering. The events taking place at this time can be directly attributed to the curses pronounced upon Israel if they did not remain faithful to God after entering the promised land. "If you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you...The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away... They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the Lord your God is giving you. Because of the suffering your enemy will inflict on you during the siege,

*(Continued on Pg 4)*

## ***Breaking Bad***

2 Kings 6:24-33

**(Continued from Pg 3)**

you will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you. (Deut. 28:15;49;52-53). Although Jehoram's parents left much to be desired he was the king, not Abab, not Elisha, but Jehoram was king in Samaria. Like Jehoram, Josiah's progenitors were greatly lacking in their faithfulness to God. We are told that his grandfather Manasseh "shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (2 Kings 21:16). His father Amon was no better in that "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. He followed completely the ways of his father" (2 Kings 21:20-21). As for Josiah "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left" (2 Kings 22:2). Simply stated, our environment does not dictate our conduct. I am the king of my own actions. For good, or ill they are mine and mine alone.

When Jehoram slipped past the end of his rope, he 'broke bad.' Being pushed past our limit is not something that only happens to the weak because we are all susceptible. Nor is it a sin to be pressured so hard that death seems to be the only way out. However, if I ever get to the point where I feel that if God does not immediately intervene I can no longer be held accountable for my actions, I am 'breaking bad.' While under considerable pressure Jehoram was confronted by a plea from a starving woman. Before he even heard what her trouble was he stated in his frustration, "If the Lord does not help you, where can I find help for you?" (2 Kings 6:27). He was at his breaking point. As king, he was responsible for the people of Samaria and their welfare, and yet he was powerless to provide for his people's most basic needs. When the shock of what this woman said hit him, as surely it would, he snapped. We are told, "he tore his clothes...then he said, 'God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!'" (2 Kings 6:30,31). So what was it that Jehoram did when he 'broke?'

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**Pg 4**

## ***Breaking Bad***

2 Kings 6:24-33

**(Continued from Pg 4)**

His response to this horrific tale was to reject God completely and then, seemingly out of spite, he ordered the servant of God, Elisha to be killed.

Consider once again the difference between Jehoram's response to the results of famine and that of the 'prodigal son' in Luke 15. Christ informs us of a severe famine that caused this particular young man to be so in want that he was forced to feed swine to sustain himself. A thing that would be unimaginable to a Jew. We are told, "he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. 'But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you'" (Lk. 15:1-19). When their respective situations brought them to the breaking point both the 'prodigal son' and Jehoram were forced to make a decision. This is the same decision that Samson, Job, and Paul had to make when they reached their breaking point and is the same one that will have to make if and when we reach ours. That decision is, will I place my full trust in the God of all comfort, or will I turn from Him and embrace the destruction that is guaranteed to those who reject Him?

**By Will Vann**

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