

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXV

September 20, 2015

No. 38

The Line Drawn In The Sand

(Jerry Fite)

For Texans, the meaning of “drawing the line in the sand” began with Colonel William Travis at the Alamo. Early March of 1836, Travis received a letter from General Santa Anna spelling out conditions of surrender. The General and his Mexican forces had the Alamo surrounded, and any hope of victory for the two-hundred-plus fighters in the compound was dim. Travis, determined already in his heart not to surrender, took his sword and drew a line in the sand. He then asked the volunteers to cross the line with him if they too were willing to fight, and probably die in the process, instead of surrendering. They understood their decision was irreversible. Legend says all but one crossed the line.

The saying, “drawing a line in the sand” may not have originated with Travis at the Alamo, but the meaning has always denoted that moment in our lives when one must make a decision. The mark in the sand demands one consider the options being forced upon him or her, and decide which way he or she will go. One can go no further; the line is drawn; an irreversible decision is at hand.

Kim Davis, a county clerk in Moorhead, Kentucky recently drew the line in the sand regarding how she would react to same-sex marriage. Despite the Supreme Court’s de facto decree, making same-sex-marriage legal, Kim refused to supply marriage licenses to homosexual couples who were now requesting such under the new law of the land.

Her “line in the sand” is she cannot conscientiously have her name on the marriage license which in effect condones a homosexual union. She can go no further regarding same-sex-marriage. She is forced to make a decision regarding her job and livelihood. Will accommodations be made for her to not have her signature on such licenses and still fulfill the job of county clerk?

Will one professing to be a Christian be accommodated so as to not violate his or her conscience in doing their job? Can a nurse keep her job at a hospital and refuse to assist in abortions? Can a Muslim truck driver still keep his job but refuse to transport alcohol? Can a Jehovah’s Witness employee at a school be forced to raise the American flag? Must a vegetarian bus driver pass out hamburger

coupons on the bus? Time will tell if accommodations will be made legally for the conscience of Kim Davis as county clerk. For now, she has drawn her line in the sand. She will accommodate evil no further.

Morally, she is right because she stands with God who has clearly revealed from heaven that a same-sex-union is an abomination (*Lev. 18:22*), and eternally destructive to individuals. God says those individuals who participate in such activity, along with drunkards and extortioners, “*shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven God*” (*I Corinthians 6:9-10*). As a representative of government, she is standing exactly where God envisioned civil officials to stand: “*for vengeance on evil doers, and for praise to them who do well*” (*I Peter 2:14*).

As Christians, we must prepare now to draw our line in the sand. Accommodating the Christian’s conscience does not presently seem to be a priority in the minds of our governmental leaders. The Christian must be willing for conscience sake to endure the grief of “*suffering wrongfully*” (*I Peter 2:19*). In these times, drawing the line is more a matter of “when” not “if”!