

Good News Daily

Volume XV

October 4-10, 2015

Number 40

Sunday, October 4

Acts 12:1-17 *So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (v.5 NIV)*

God wants us to be moved by His love and filled with compassion for others. Their good friend was in trouble, but they took to their knees in prayer. The *King James Version* says, “they prayed without ceasing.” The operative word is “but” and, by definition, “but” is used to introduce something contrasting with what has already been mentioned.

When we pray for one another and put the desires of our heart at the foot of the cross, we can expect to see change. How else could we possibly deal with the strains in our lives? Cancer, debt, depression, accidents, fears, sins, regrets, *but* the church is praying! Pray for one another, hurt with one another, listen to one another, grant mercy to one another, forgive each other, laugh with each other, and study with one another. There is hope in Christ and there is practical guidance in his Word. Seek him and open his Book. I have many issues on my heart, big and small, that are important to the Lord and I am thankful for my family and friends who will take to their knees in prayer with me.

2 Kings 20:1-21; Psalm 118; Luke 7:11-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE Sunyani (Ghana) - (West Africa) The Rt Revd Dr Festus Yeboah-Asuamah

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, the Rev. Ian Wetmore, Vicar; Tutuo Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Jonas Mkuyu, Vicar; The Mission of Santa Natividad, Yarábamba, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar; Bruce U. DeGooyer, Bloomington, Ordination to the Priesthood.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Jeffrey Clark and Nancy Roberts; Pray for Fr. Bruce on the anniversary of his ordination.

Monday, October 5

Matthew 8:28-34 *Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. (vv.30-34 NKJV)*

Is income, pleasure, food, or something else in the way of loving God and loving our neighbor? It seems that helping someone out of full demonic oppression was less important than taking away an income source. The Law of Moses did not justify the eating of pigs, but possibly the selling of pigs to Gentiles. The people did not want the healing to stir things up in their town. Heal him, but don't interrupt my life.

Many times I have been like the whole town coming out to meet Jesus. “Do not make me uncomfortable, cramp my style or effect my income. Do not make me feel uncomfortable with the way I live my life and ride the line of rationalization.” Christ is searching for the influences or idols in our lives that represent the herd of swine. What in your life needs to be run off the mountainside?

2 Kings 21:1-18; Psalm 106:1-18; 1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Swansea & Brecon - (Wales) The Rt Revd John Davies

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Jesus Christ our Lord, draw us into the orbit of you whenever we become lost and are led astray.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Andrew Dean, Steve Waldron, and Charles Gordon.

Tuesday, October 6

Psalms 121 *I lift my eyes to the hills, Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* (vv.1-2)

I left commercial real estate to stay home and nurture our new family. Our boys are 16 months apart, which is a huge blessing but was a challenge as well. I was overwhelmed with the sudden lifestyle change of marriage and children all at once. At that time we lived across the street from a Christian family. They have six boys, the last two twins! Their names are Daniel, Ethan, Jonathan, Caleb, Andrew, and Josiah. I was excited to get to know this mom better, thinking I could ask her anything! Surely she had seen it all. So I began to seek her advice and godly wisdom. To my surprise, she never really doled out helpful tips; she did, however, pray with me and showed me to ask God for practical guidance for the boys and our family. We are dear friends today.

When the psalmist looks up the mountains are looming and he is sensing his own inability to handle things. Yet in verse two and the remainder of the psalm, he quickly reminds himself that there is a promise of help from the Maker of heaven and earth. I have many looming mountain of my own and yet the Lord, who created the entire world, hears my cry! Lord, help the words of this Scripture penetrate my heart and mind.

2 Kings 22:1-13; Psalms 120, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22; Matthew 9:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Swaziland - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Caroline Leighton and Kelly Gray.

Wednesday, October 7

Matthew 9:9-17 *On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (vv.12-13)

When I read this passage, I wonder who is healthy and who is sick? Who is in tune with God and who is not? Years ago a good friend that discipled me took me with him to the county jail to assist with his ministry. We did this together for two years and it was a game changer. The first week or two, it was my mistaken belief that I was a minister to the men of the cellblocks we went to visit. In fact, I was doing a service that was commendable. After the second week the encounter was a revelation. The men of the cellblock were liberated and free, in full communion and fellowship with the Lord. They were jailed but were free. Christ had come into the county jail and his love and spirit flowed abundantly into these men. Christ was in those meetings. Rugged and powerful men were humbly offering testimony, praising Christ through worship, and praying for the other men in their block. They were being healed. I have been in services in multiple churches with numerous believers and rarely have I seen the worship and humility like that of these incarcerated. Who is healthy and who is sick?

2 Kings 22:14—23:3; Psalm 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Swaziland - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those engaged in Bible Study and Spiritual Direction.

Thursday, October 8

Psalms 132 *"If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever."* (v.12)

This Old Testament Scripture is referring to the importance of keeping the Law of the Covenant in David's Time. There are certainly conditions that God has given us in the Bible about following His ways for our own well-being. Yet, He also knows how lame our end result will be. We showed that in the Garden of Eden! He desires to take care of us and for us to follow Him with all of our heart and try our

best to fulfill His word in our lives. It's not about the laws, it's about the desires of our hearts; and if we seek His help like a child, the rest will fall in place. "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3).

He wants our children and our children's children to profess His name and teach His ways. My heart is filled with joy and peace when I think about my sons teaching their kids about knowing and understanding our God and what He has done for us all.

2 Kings 23:4-25; Psalms 131, 133; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Matthew 9:18-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tabora - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Elias Chakupewa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O God, forgive us for the faults which make us difficult to live with.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those in our community who lack adequate food and shelter.

Friday, October 9

2 Kings 23:36—24:17 *As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and cut up the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD.* (vv.13-14)

"King Hezekiah showed off his treasuries to strangers from a foreign land, all that he had in his dominion he showed the Babylonians" (20:13). King Hezekiah and I have much in common in good times. Nebuchadnezzar is like debt; if we do not watch our finances our sustenance will be removed. There are consequences when we ride the line of debt in naiveté. Hezekiah took his eyes off the Lord and looked around at his financial picture with great pride. I learned the hard way, letting the enemy create a false picture and allowing debt to remove a good portion of our finances. It was a lesson God allowed in His mercy and I am grateful for His perfect timing. Laying your future on the debt line is like showing your treasuries to a foreign enemy. Hezekiah, his immediate family, and future kings all had to deal with the ramifications.

Psalms 140, 142; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Matthew 9:27-34

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Taita-Taveta - (Kenya) The Rt Revd Dr Samson Mwaluda; Bishop Coadjutor The Rt Revd Liverson Mng'onda.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the Consecration of The Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Bruce U. and Sylvia DeGooyer, Bloomington.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Anniversary of Fr. Bruce and Sylvia DeGooyer; Birthday of Eva Swisher.

Saturday, October 10

Matthew 9:35—10:4 *"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (v.38)

Daily I run into a myriad of people like cashiers, waiters, mail carriers, physicians, bankers, friends, and family that do not know Christ. Like Jesus noted earlier with the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. As you and I experience everyday, there are hurting people everywhere—people searching, filling their voids with things that don't answer their individual needs. I miss or neglect the opportunity to share Jesus in some way with them daily.

You and I, as workers of the harvest, are sent to plant seeds and at times offer the Savior Jesus as he has so graciously been offered to us. Fortunately, the Lord has allowed me to witness men and women accepting Christ as their Lord. It is the most powerful and energizing experience. So next time you check out at the cashier, order a meal at your favorite restaurant, or say hello to your neighbor, think about the work of the harvest before you. The grace we have been given by the Lord of the harvest is an honor to share.

Jeremiah 35:1-19; Psalms 137, 144; 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:3

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Taiwan - (VIII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd David Lai

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mary's, Robinson, Admitted to the Diocese, 1956; All Saints, Morton, dedication of church building, 1965; Birthday of The Rev. Robert D. Harmon, Mt. Vernon; Birthday of Robert, husband of The Rev. Ann L. Alley, Champaign.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Reva Alber.

by Charlie and Lisa Clayton

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