

Sunday, October 11

Acts 14:8-18 *“Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men, of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you in order that you should turn from these vain things to a living god, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them.”* (v.15 NASB)

God’s ministry through Paul was hugely successful. As a result of Paul’s preaching, many were converted to Christianity and others were healed. Today he would be called dynamic and charismatic.

It is easy to see how the Lyconians watching Paul and his ministry could have mistakenly thought he was a god. How else could they explain the healings and conversions? They wanted to honor this “god” with a parade and sacrifices. Once he realized the situation Paul, in his humility, redirected the Lyconians to God. He reminded the people that he was like them and the glory belonged to the Lord.

It is tempting to take credit for the healings and awesome acts that the Lord does through His people. We need to remember that we are just a vessel through which God works.

I am grateful that Paul didn’t give in to the temptation of hubris and take credit for God’s work. Lift up the leaders of the church today that they would be humble and pure in heart and seek to give God the glory.

Jeremiah 36:1-10; Psalms 146, 147; Luke 7:36-50

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tamale (Ghana) - (West Africa) The Rt Revd Dr Jacob Ayeebo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Springfield, The Ven. Shawn Denney, Vicar; Ilalwansimba Mission, Tanzania,; Rev. Joel Kahindi, Vicar; the Mission of Santas Maria y Martha de Betania, Ilo, Peru, Rev’d Victor Condori, Vicar.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Kia Griffin.

Monday, October 12

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.* (v.1)

We are a family of verbal lovers. By that I mean we say, “I love you” all the time—when the kids leave for school, when we go to bed, sometimes when we hang up the phone. We say it to the kids and they say it to us. I even heard my daughter’s friends saying it to each other. I’m glad we are that way. After attending a wedding recently and re-reading today’s passage from Acts, I am challenged though. I say I love but do I show I love? Does my behavior reflect it? Here is *The Message* version. Join me in studying these words and reviewing my life:

“Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn’t want what it doesn’t have. Love doesn’t strut. Doesn’t have a swelled head, doesn’t force itself on others, isn’t always ‘me first.’ Doesn’t fly off the handle, doesn’t keep score of the sins of others. Doesn’t revel when others grovel. Takes pleasure in the flowering of the truth, puts up with anything. Trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end” (vv.4-7).

Lord, Your Word says to “trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly and love extravagantly.” Forgive me when I have failed in my loving. Show me how and when to love. I want to love extravagantly.

Jeremiah 36:11-26; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Matthew 10:5-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tanga - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Maimbo Mndolwa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the sun that always rises, but never sets.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Sarah Krippenstapel; For Bishop Elias and Lucy Chakupewa as they travel to the US.

Tuesday, October 13

Psalm 6 *For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication; the LORD receives my prayer.* (vv.8b-9).

We had a family member who was just toxic. He created carnage and destruction everywhere but never thought he did anything wrong. He used and humiliated those closest to him. My heart ached for my relatives and burned with anger toward his caustic spirit.

I prayed regularly. I didn’t know what to specifically pray for and I needed the Holy Spirit to intervene. Giving it to the Lord was all I could do. I knew also that this man had his own hurts and issues that led to his behaviors and that the Lord loved him as He loves all of us.

God’s promise that He answers all prayers was all I had. One day I was taking stock of the situation as it had evolved. I realized that it couldn’t have turned out better. The Holy Spirit intervened and was in control. For someone who could have been harmful to others, vengeful and vindictively controlling, he chose another path. The Lord heard my prayers and my pleas for intervention. Everyone is safe and much healthier emotionally. Only the Lord could have done that!

Jeremiah 36:27—37:2; Psalm 5; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12; Matthews 10:16-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tarime - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Dr R Mwita Akiri

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Barnabas’, Havana, Consecration of church building, 1887; Birthday of The Very Rev. David J. Halt, Bloomington.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Birthday of Robert Wolfe.

Wednesday, October 14

Matthew 10:24-37 *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.* (v. 30)

I have a red Labrador retriever named Nash. He has the most adorable face and a sweet disposition. Those two assets endear him to me. Otherwise, he drives me crazy. He sheds like it his life’s purpose. I could vacuum the floors daily. Instead, I vacuum the dog. I have a vacuum with an attachment to use on Nash. That red hair is everywhere! He just brushes by me and I have to use the entire adhesive on the lint roller to come clean.

In trying to turn my frustration into a positive, I ponder this verse as I gather up dog hair. The Lord knows every hair on my head because he has them numbered. That’s how much he cares for me. We are unable to truly comprehend how much God loves us because our limited human brain. This gives us a concrete example. That is a pretty comprehensive, intimate and deep kind of caring. No one else loves me that way.

Jeremiah 37:3-21; Psalm 119:1-24; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tasmania - (Ex-P, Australia) The Rt Revd John Harrower

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Anniversary of Steve and Linda Waldron; Birthday of Louise Krippenstapel.

Thursday, October 15

1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40 *For God is not a god of confusion but of peace.* (v.33a)

In the movie *Titanic*, chaos abounds as the ship is breaking in two and sinking after running into an iceberg. In an effort to provide some calmness and serenity, the ship's captain orders the string quartet to set up on the deck and play while passengers and crew desperately seek means of survival. In the midst of confusion, we seek peace.

Only God can provide the peace we need. When all around us is falling apart, when everything looks to be lost, when nothing is what we thought it was or we can't see the next step, we need to seek the Lord and ask for His peace. He will lovingly bestow it on us and we will be able to go on, to take the next step. It is indescribable. It is calmness that music or yoga or a sedative can't produce.

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful" (John 14:27).

Jeremiah 38:1-13; Psalm 18:1-20; Matthew 10:34-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Temotu - (Melanesia) The Rt Revd George Takeli

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Loving Lord Jesus, enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For those who help in public worship: Acolytes, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Worship Leaders and Choir.

Friday, October 16

Jeremiah 38:14-28 *But Jeremiah said... "Please obey the Lord in what I am saying to you, that it may go well with you and you may live."* (v.20)

God wants me to do what? King Zedekiah had God's prophet speak directly to him. Jeremiah told him exactly what he was supposed to do to survive the attack on his city. It didn't make sense to Zedekiah so he did the opposite, and that didn't pan out very well for him.

Sometimes we hear the Lord telling us to do something that doesn't make sense. It seems preposterous like what Zedekiah was supposed to do or it requires us to act out of our comfort zone—like asking someone to attend a Women of Faith Conference with you who doesn't go to church.

Usually our disobedience isn't fatal like Zedekiah, but maybe we miss out on blessings or a rescue from a difficult situation or we don't help to further the kingdom. We have to remember that God sees much more than we do, He understands the whole picture. We need to listen and act without doubting.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

Psalms 16, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 11:1-6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Tennessee - (IV, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Bauerschmidt

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Matthew's, Bloomington, Consecration of church building, 1955; Birthday of Mary, wife of The Rev. Canon Timothy J. Hallett, Bloomington, IN; Pray for the 138th Synod of the Diocese of Springfield, convening in Jacksonville.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Anniversary of Roy and Pam Laws (50).

Saturday, October 17

Psalm 20 *May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!* (v.1)

David wrote this psalm as a liturgy for the king. It is a prayer for victory and an assurance of divine help according to my Bible reference note. With a child starting college, I am praying for a successful year and for Godly help when needed. Here is my own version of Psalm 20:

May the Lord hear you when you call out to Him;

May He keep you safe if you are in danger, send angels to protect you, and the Holy Spirit to intervene.

May He remember how you praise Him and serve Him.

May He hold you close, answer your prayers, and grant you wisdom and direction.

We will celebrate your successes and blessings from the Lord.

May the Lord answer your prayers and give you peace.

Others put their faith in the world, put yours in the Lord. Lord, take care of this child.

2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26; Psalm 21; 1 Corinthians 15:12-29; Matthew 11:7-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Terekeka - (Sudan) The Rt Revd Paul Modi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the 138th Synod of the Diocese of Springfield, convening in Jacksonville.

ST. MATTHEW'S: For Bishop Elias' visit with St. Matthew's tomorrow!

by Mara McClain

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