

Good News Daily

Volume XVI

April 10-16, 2016

Number 15

Sunday, April 10

Exodus 18:1-12 *Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the LORD had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. "Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, for he did this to those who had treated Israel arrogantly."* (vv.9, 11 NIV)

As a parent, my heart's desire for my children is for each of them to have a personal, transformational relationship with their Creator God, Redeemer Jesus, and the living Holy Spirit. Often, I have instructed them to "devote themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). These are key foundational guidelines.

Unfortunately, I only saw marginal transformation with these guidelines. Then God showed me the "Moses Model." His father-in-law, Jethro, came to know the one true God from hearing Moses share specific instances of God's goodness and power, not from having Moses preach about prayer, learning, and fellowship.

Now, I look for opportunities to share God's power and goodness in all circumstances—mine and theirs. The "Moses Model" approach to teaching about God has been much more effective. And, reliving the joy personally is a double blessing. May deeper transformation continue.

Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 John 2:7-17; Mark 16:9-20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of Ireland The Most Revd Dr Richard Lionel Clarke Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Salem The Very Rev. Cn. David M. Baumann, Priest in Charge; Nsenda Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Gideon Kalumiye; the Youth Home of Casa Hogar Sagrada Familia, Rev'd Daniel Rodriguez, Chaplain; Birthday of Sara "Sally", wife of The Rev. Jon E. Griffin of West Frankfort.

St. Matthew's: Pray for the mentally ill.

Monday, April 11

1 Peter 5:1-14 *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.* (v.7)

My dear friend had one option only when her bladder cancer returned for the third time—bladder removal and a new reconstruction. After twelve hours of surgery, she arrived at the ICU with 20 catheters inserted, a 15-inch incision line, and a long road of healing.

When she was finally able to talk, she called me. Physically, she was making gradual progress with some setbacks. Emotionally, she was fearful, doubtful, and unworthy. Spiritually, she couldn't pray. How could I help from 2,500 miles away?

We prayed. God revealed that pain, fear, and doubt had become obstacles in her prayer life. As prayer continued, God showered His boundless delight upon her. He showed her that He was walking beside her on this healing journey. Then, she repented of her doubt and fear. She renounced the lie that God was the source of this cancer. My friend was then filled with hope in the healing power and love of God. She began a transformational journey that day.

May we each have the humility to ask for help when needed, as my friend did.

Exodus 18:13-27; Psalm 25; Matthew 1:1-17, 3:1-6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Butare – (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Nathan Gasatura

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give thanks for the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord.

St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of Barbara Allsup.

Tuesday, April 12

Colossians 1:1-14 *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whenever we pray for you.* (v.3)

The Message translation of this verse is: “Our prayers for you are always spilling over into thanksgivings.” Succinct and prophetic, this translation sheds light on how to move from information in God’s Word to transformation in relationship with Christ. We gather knowledge so we can bear fruit.

We pray, we give thanks, we receive joy when our relational circuits are turned on with God and others. I have discovered that changing my perspective of a situation by asking Jesus what he sees and what he wants me to know about a situation, fast tracks receiving joy from him.

In planning a baby shower with several women, disagreements arose over several key decisions. The planning team was divided by criticism, deception, and self-justification. I started to experience feelings of anger, confusion, and mistrust. When I asked Jesus how he saw this situation and asked for his counsel, his perspective filled me with wisdom, compassion, and renewed focus on the purpose of this grand celebration. The shower became a blessing to all of us.

Exodus 19:1-16; Psalms 26, 28; Matthew 3:7-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Butere – (Kenya) The Rt Revd Timothy Wambunya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. William L. Toland, Jr., Decatur.

St. Matthew’s: Pray for the church.

Wednesday, April 13

Matthew 3:13-17 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lightening on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”* (vv.16-17)

Here we are introduced to the Trinity. God the Father speaks, God the Son is baptized, and God the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. Understanding God in three persons, yet one, has been fundamental in my relationship with God and in my transformation.

For me, the difference between God in three persons and God in one person is role and purpose vs. the nature of God. God in one person means that the nature of God is identical and unchanging in each of the three persons of God: Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit.

When I connect a role or purpose when addressing one of the three persons of God (e.g. Father God-Creator-Abba Daddy who calls me the “apple of his eye”), I come immediately into the presence of God. Focus has been shifted from my earthly issues to my living, loving God and all my relational circuits are turned on. Now, I can sit and be, listen and learn, and rest and be filled.

Exodus 19:16-25; Psalm 38; Colossians 1:15-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Buye – (Burundi) The Rt Revd Sixbert Macumi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: God, your Word tells us that true religion with contentment is great wealth.

St. Matthew’s celebrates the birthday of Lewis Garrison.

Thursday, April 14

Colossians 1:24—2:7 *So, then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.* (vv.6-7)

When I see answered prayer or receive an unexpected joy, should I keep the thanksgiving quiet? No, I should actively share my thanksgiving with others as a living example of the power and love of God. That is how to thank God and show appreciation for His blessings.

A friend challenged me to understand more deeply that Jesus died to give me abundant life. She asked me to consider ways that Jesus gives life—freedom from sin, restored relationship with God, joy through suffering, Jesus protecting me from harm. I promised to ponder and pray.

Just 30 minutes later, it started raining and I was getting wet. My car was just across a quiet street. Looking both ways, I headed across. Suddenly, I heard the rumbling of a truck motor, saw it heading directly towards me—brakes were screeching, the truck was swerving. I remember thinking only God could save me. Then, the truck stopped, only feet away. I had no fear, no scratches, just abundant life and joy.

Jesus is awesome and amazing, isn’t he? Thanking Jesus blesses me and others.

Exodus 20:1-21; Psalm 37:1-18; Matthew 4:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Byumba – (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Ngendahayo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding Anniversary of The Very Rev. John R. and Sandy Henry, Carlinville.

St. Matthew's celebrates the birthday of Cristan Embree and Grace Leighton.

Friday, April 15

Psalm 105:1-22 *Keep your eyes open to God; watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence.* (v.4 The Message)

My children used to give me a hard time when I said, "That was a God thing. Thank You, Lord." They wondered how I knew and how I could teach them to see, watch, and be alert. I encouraged them to think of something they were thankful for and then, in prayer, to thank God.

Many friends and family have encouraged our daughter as an artist. We were praying with her for favor and discernment as she relocated to NYC. Having completed numerous, successful commissions for her paintings already, she wanted to refine her creative focus to expand marketing opportunities. Having her work hang in a gallery where it could be purchased because of the visual delight, not because of the artist, was one of her expressed desires.

Several months later, the first of her many gallery shows opened with success. Only God could have coordinated finding a gallery space in a prime location, established a team with complimentary gifts who deeply respect and care for each other, and demonstrated clearly that: "That was a God thing. Thank You, Lord."

Exodus 24:1-18; Colossians 2:8-23; Matthew 4:12-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Calabar – (Niger Delta, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Tunde Adeleye

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Let your mighty outstretched arm, O Lord God, be our defense.

St. Matthew's: Pray for those in need.

Saturday, April 16

Matthew 4:18-25 *Jesus went through Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News spread about him over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.* (vv.23-24 NIV)

Here we learn that Jesus healed everybody brought to him with any mental, emotional, or physical ailment. The twelve disciples observed and learned from Jesus. Then, he "gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness" (Matthew 10:1). When the 72 messengers returned they joyfully said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name" (Luke 10:17). When the eleven disciples went to Galilee, Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." (Matthew 28:18-19).

Therefore, we know that Jesus heals any ailment today and always through the power of the Holy Spirit. I treasure the picture that Isaiah's prophecy of the coming Messiah Jesus paints for me here: He will "bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair" (Isaiah 61:3-4).

Exodus 25:1-22; Psalms 30, 32; Colossians 3:1-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Calcutta – (North India) The Rt Revd Ashok Biswas

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rt. Rev. Donald M. Hultstrand, IX Bishop of Springfield, Greenville, SC.

St. Matthew's: Pray for the sick.

by Jane Shinn

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