

Good News Daily

Volume XVI

April 3-9, 2016

Number 14

Sunday, April 3

John 14:1-7 *“Let not your heart be troubled; you who believe in God, believe also in Me.”* (v.1 NKJV)

But my heart *is* often troubled, what then? I want my belief (trust) to be real, not just words. In context, Jesus is assuring them/us of our eternal destiny in him. If it’s a sure thing, then why does my heart become troubled? I believe it is because I take my eyes off the sure thing and focus on the unsure things (daily events). What is overwhelming to me, God already sees the end. When my heart is fearful, as Jesus’ heart was at Gethsemane, I tell myself faith stories. You know, like remembering how the Lord gave water to the children of Israel in the desert (Exodus 14). Their immediate need was met. When I have my eyes on Jesus and his plans, he supplies everything I need.

Thank you, Jesus, for your gift of salvation and the assurance that I will be with you forever.

Exodus 14:5-22; Psalms 146, 147; 1 John 1:1-7

St. Matthews: Pray for the church

Monday, April 4

Exodus 14:21-31 *He took off their chariot wheels, so that they drove them with difficulty; and the Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.”* (v.25)

Here comes another faith story. “My will is like a river,” says the LORD. “It flows from its source to its destination.” I can do things to obstruct His will, but He can also take the wheels off my chariots. “The LORD will fight for you and you shall hold your peace” (v.14).

I believe the Holy Spirit is revealing to me that I am like a boat tethered to a dock. I need courage to cut the moorings. My fear of outcomes is keeping me tied. I have a picture of what a good outcome and a bad outcome is. I need to give that up.

LORD, I surrender my will to yours.

Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 Peter 1:1-12; John 14:8-17

St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of Michael Dean.

Tuesday, April 5

Exodus 15:1-21 *Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying, “I will sing to the LORD for He has triumphed gloriously!”* (v.1a)

There is a part of our brain, the right hemisphere, which responds to music and poetry. As we sing the stories of our God’s mighty deeds, past and present, our being is established in truth. We synchronize (come into unity) with the truth. Lord, I sing a song of all You have done for me: repairing relationships, providing all I need, protecting me from my own destructive thinking, teaching me your ways. You are the solid rock on which I stand. I worship You!

Isn’t it great to know that the Father also sings and dances over us?

Psalms 5, 6; 1 Peter 1:13-25; John 14:18-31

St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of Martha Carroll and Ann Sokan.

Wednesday, April 6

Exodus 15:22—16:10 *He said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight...For I am the LORD who heals you."* (v.26)

When you see "if" in the Bible, pay attention; this conditional word is followed by a directive, "heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right." That's the condition of your healing. How do I know what is right? I have the written Word (*Logos*) and the the Living Word (*Rhema*). Communicating with the Spirit of God regularly is the only way I can discern specific directions for each situation.

"If you abide in me...your joy may be complete" (John 15). That means to *stay* in His presence. "You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by GOD" (Psalm 119 The Message).

Isn't it wonderful that God says the same thing in so many different ways?

Psalm 119:1-24; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 15:1-11

St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of Debbie Thomas.

Thursday, April 7

John 15:12-27 *"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* (v.12)

Isn't that the most amazing directive you've ever heard? Imagine God expecting us to love everyone unconditionally, under all circumstances, with mercy, without fear of rejection, even when we're tired, even when we haven't gotten what we needed, especially when we haven't gotten what we needed. Whew! That's going to take some serious *grace*, Lord. I can't give out something I have not received. So, Lord Jesus, today I ask that you expose everything in my heart and in the hearts of each reader that has not experienced your love. Give us opportunities to encounter those that we consider unlovable to bring your love to perfection in us.

"I will love You, O LORD, my strength...My God my strength, in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:1, 2b).

Exodus 16:10-22; Psalm 18:1-20; 1 Peter 2:11-25

St. Matthews: Pray for those in need.

Friday, April 8

Exodus 16:23-36 *So the people rested on the seventh day.* (v.30)

I frequently forget to rest, but I'm learning. Our natural and preferred state of being is the rhythm of joy and rest (Jim Wilder, *Life Model*). When I remember to quiet myself between activities, both positive and negative, I will be healthier in body, mind, and spirit. In fact, Wilder says, the ability to soothe and quiet ourselves is the strongest predictor of good mental health for a lifetime. When I am at quiet rest I am more likely to hear God's voice. What do you want me to hear right now, Lord?

"I love you, my child. My heart longs to be connected with yours at all times. I want your life to be a continuous communion with Me. This is My desire for you, my beloved."

"I said to the LORD, 'You are my Master! All the good things I have are from you.'" (Psalm 16:1)

Psalms 16, 17; 1 Peter 3:13—4:6; John 16:1-15

St. Matthews: Pray for the sick.

Saturday, April 9

Psalm 20 *May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed. May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our God. May the LORD answer all your prayers.* (vv.4-5 NLT)

As I intercede to the Lord for the people in my life who are in need, I think of my niece and nephew who buried their baby after only one day. I think of my mother dealing with the effects of cancer and an aunt and uncle that had to move to a nursing facility. When I consider the challenges of everyday life, I realize once again our desperate need for the Lord. As He comforts, heals, and provides for all those I love, I fly banners of honor and gratitude for all the wonders He performs.

Lord, I am overcome with the miracle of Your presence in our lives. Oh, Lord, You are my Banner!

Exodus 17:1-16; Psalm 21; 1 Peter 4:7-19; John 16:16-33
St. Matthews celebrates the birthday of A.J. Holderby.

by Charlene Laird

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