

Good News Daily

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Sunday, May 29

Luke 11:1-13 *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."* (v.1 NIV)

After my stroke, I found myself reciting the list of "broken things" I wanted the Lord to heal. I regularly repeated this list to Him. One day I sensed His response. It was: *Really?* And I suddenly was reminded that all physical healings would have a time limit. I was going to die one day. Did I only want things that had a temporary life?

The first thing Jesus taught us to pray for was for God's Will to be done, on earth as in Heaven. There are no qualifying limits on that prayer request. Before we ask for anything else we should ask for that. It is the eternally lasting and eternally important prayer request that we, His servants, can make.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Psalms 63, 98; Acts 8:26-40

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mary's, Robinson, The Rev. Ann Tofani, Vicar; Ushiroambo Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Can. Amos Ndelema, Rural Dean; The Missions of Choco and villages of the Colca Canyon, Peru, Rev'd Justo Maque. Deacon; Brant V. Hazlett, Mt. Carmel, received as Priest; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Cynthia A. and Byron Sever, Alton
St. Matthew's celebrates the anniversary of Harry and Kim Bray.

Monday, May 30

Galatians 1:1-17 *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.* (vv.3-5)

Yesterday we considered our first prayer request to God: that His Will be done. In this verse, Paul spells out what God's Will includes: our rescue and redemption through Jesus Christ. We need nothing that is more important than this! What does it profit us if we gain the whole world but lose our eternal souls?

This great gift of grace and peace is what our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ have desired to give us most. In the brokenness of the evil age in which we find ourselves, nothing could be more valuable for us. The fact God wants to give this gift is an indication that marks the measure of His great love for us.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-15; Psalms 41, 52; Matthew 13:44-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Colorado – (Province VI, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Robert O'Neill

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord of creation, show us your purpose for our life that we may not live to be useless.

St. Matthew's celebrates the anniversary of Gus and Heather Mather and the birthday of Christopher Genge.

Tuesday, May 31

Matthew 13:53-58 *"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"* (vv.55-56)

One of my favorite tricks only fools the volunteer sitting on stage in front of the magician. The audience can clearly see the magician is making wads of paper disappear from his closed fist by tossing them over the head and behind the volunteer. The volunteer is amazed at the vanishing trick only because

their limited viewpoint keeps them from seeing all the facts. The audience sees more and has a different, more complete understanding of the matter!

The people who watched Jesus grow up had the same problem. Their refusal to see more than what they saw during his childhood kept them from recognizing who he really was. We have the same problem when we fail to believe the whole story God has revealed to us about His Son.

Ecclesiastes 2:16-26; Psalm 45; Galatians 1:18—2:10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Connecticut – (Province I, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Ian Douglas; The Rt Revd James Curry, Suffragan Bishop; The Rt Revd Laura Ahrens, Suffragan Bishop
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Timothy A. Goodman, Johnston City, Ordination to the Priesthood.
St. Matthew's celebrates the birthday of Nathaniel Jones.

Wednesday, June 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.* (v.1)

Bob Bennett wrote a loving song profile of his parents named for the year in which they were married—1951. In the song he recalls once seeing his mother crying on his dad's shoulder. When young Bob asks what is wrong, his dad says simply, "You'll understand when you're older." The line sums up our experience learning about life, but only when the time is right. Answers to all our questions and all our mysteries will only come to us in their due season.

In the meantime, we get to walk by faith, trusting in the Father who holds all things together and has planned out our days. We can rest in the assurance that He is watching over us *today*, long before any of our questions will be answered, long before any of them *need* to be answered.

Psalm 119:49-72; Galatians 2:11-21; Matthew 14:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Connor – (Armagh, Ireland) The Rt Revd Alan Francis Abernethy; Cork, Cloyne & Ross – (Dublin, Ireland) The Rt Revd William Paul Colton
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Phillip D. Boeve; Eugene A. Stormer, ordination to the Priesthood.
St. Matthew's celebrates the anniversary of Dave of Mary Kaufman.

Thursday, June 2

Psalm 50 *He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God.* (v.23)

Preparations take place before an event actually arrives. The house gets cleaned up. Dinner is cooking in the kitchen. Flowers and gifts for guests are waiting to be presented. Such preparations are made in anticipation of the arrival of the guests or event. Indeed, such preparations are sometimes the only clue that something or someone special is expected.

God says when thank offerings are done for Him in advance, they are acts that prepare the way for what He Himself is planning to do for us. God has prepared wonderful gifts of His own to share with us. When we trust Him and believe His promises, we don't have to wait for proof that God will keep His Word to us. We can begin now to offer our sacrifices of thanksgiving.

Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:3; Galatians 3:1-14; Matthew 14:13-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Costa Rica – (Central America) The Rt Revd Hector Monterroso Gonzalez
DIOCESAN CYCLE: God of small beginnings, you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear.
St. Matthew's celebrates the birthday of Marhta Pitts.

Friday, June 3

Matthew 14:22-36 *Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.* (vv.27-29)

Today and tomorrow we compare two requests made by Peter. His request to walk on the water is one that would seem to have no practical value. Yet it involved Peter in an actual *doing* of something which he saw Jesus doing. And Jesus instantly grants the request. “You want to *act*? To follow me? Do so this minute!”

All of Jesus’ commands and instructions are action oriented. When the Lord speaks, the next thing he wants to see is us *responding, obeying, doing*. This is the normal order between a master and a servant, a parent and the child. Jesus is always ready to provide the direction. Are we ready to hear and do what he has told us to do?

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7; Psalms 40, 54; Galatians 3:15-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Coventry – (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth;
Coventry – The Rt Revd John Stroyan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Lillian, widow of The Rev. Lucien Larivee, Champaign.
St. Matthew’s celebrates the birthday of Brent and Stephanie Davingman.

Saturday, June 4

Matthew 15:1-20 *Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them.* (vv.15-16)

Peter’s request in today’s verse is an interesting contrast to his request in yesterday’s reading. And the response from Jesus is also quite different! This time Peter is not asking permission to take action. He wants to have a discussion! Jesus clearly expects it will be a waste of time. The two requests illustrate a category distinction we do well to notice.

Jesus has not come primarily to educate us, although we will learn many valuable lessons listening to him. Jesus said he came not to be served but to serve. That is the pattern he lays out for all of us. It is one of doing, not one of discussing academic fine points. There are certainly times we will desire explanations from Jesus. But we will not always need them in order to obey his call. For that we don’t need mental discussions. We just need our hearts to be willing and ready to act.

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20; Psalm 55; Galatians 3:23—4:11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Cueibet – (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan) The Rt Revd Elijah Matueny Awet

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Helen, wife of The Rev Canon Elliot Blackburn, Mason City, IA.
St. Matthew’s pray for those in need.

by Rick Hoover

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