

Good News Daily

Volume XVII

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Number 10

Sunday, March 5

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 *Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. (vv.1-4 NIV)*

Have you ever worn clothes for forty years and have them not wear out? Have you ever walked in the desert for forty years and had your feet not swell? I can't say I have either. But the Lord was testing the Israelites see if they would trust His Word and trust Him. He asks us the same question every day. Do you trust me? Do you really, really, trust me? Imagine how different things might be if you and I *truly* trusted the Lord.

It's not the parts of the Bible that I don't understand that trouble me. It's the parts that I do understand that concern me. How about you?

Ponder that.

Psalms 63, 98; 1 Corinthians 1:17-31; Mark 2:18-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Marathwada - (North India) The Rt Revd Madhukar Kasab
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Emanuel Memorial, Champaign, The Very Rev. Beth H. Maynard, Rector;
Urambo Parish: The Rev. Shadrack Sabaya, The Rev. Alex Iseke, Curate, Urambo, Tanzania; The
Mission of Jesus Source of Life, District of Comas, Lima, Peru, Ms. Edith Varillas. Lay Minister;
St. Thomas, Salem, Anniversary of the Consecration of Church building, 1926.
ST.MATTHEW'S: Heather Mather's birthday.

Monday, March 6

John 2:1-12 *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. (vv.7-9a)*

This was Jesus' first miracle—turning water into wine. He subsequently healed a royal official's son from a distance, fed five thousand, healed a paralyzed man after 38 years, and walked on water. He made the lame walk, the dumb talk, and the blind to see. He cleansed the leper, cast out demons, healed the woman's issue of blood, and raised a man from the dead. He also did many other healings, too many to mention here other than the fact that he overcame the grave and rose from the dead.

Jesus does not change—he still heals today. We must just believe and not doubt. Do these words encourage you in your efforts? If not, why not?

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Psalms 41, 52; Hebrews 2:11-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maridi - (Minye, Sudan) The Rt Revd Justin Badi Arama
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev Mary Christine "Mollie" Ward, Bloomington.
ST.MATTHEW'S: Dede & Doug Dyson's wedding anniversary and Jane Shadid's birthday.

Tuesday, March 7

Hebrews 3:1-11 *“That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’ So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”* (vv.10-11)

Why are our hearts always going astray? For me, it happens when I do not regularly read, study, meditate on, and put into practice God’s Word. Why have we not known His ways? I submit it is for the same reasons. So how do we solve the problem? By doing the obvious—reading, studying, meditating, and putting into practice God’s Word.

What does it mean they shall never enter God’s rest? What does it say to you and to me? Jesus, and Jesus alone, has the answer. Born once die twice; born twice die once.

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 9:4-12; Psalm 45; John 2:13-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Marsabit - (Kenya) The Rt Revd Robert Martin

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Sue, widow of The Rev Thomas A. Davis, Salem.

ST.MATTHEW’S: Birthdays of George Dyson, Roger Hunt, and Matt Matsuda.

Wednesday, March 8

John 2:23—3:15 *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”* (v.3)

This is one of the most important verses of Scripture. Yet, it is one of the most misunderstood.

Common synonymous terms for “born again” are saved and converted. So, what are we saved from? The answer is, we are saved from the wrath of God. And what are you converted from? You are converted from worldly ways to heavenly ways. Born again? Think of it as born once die twice, born twice die once.

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 9:13-21; Psalm 119:49-72; Hebrews 3:12-19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maryland - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Eugene Sutton

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev David L. Wells, Springfield.

Thursday, March 9

John 3:16-21 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.* (vv.16-18)

John 3:16 is probably the best-known verse in the Bible. The key word is “believe.” If you don’t live it, you don’t believe it. Heaven and hell are both real; they both exist. Not everyone will go to heaven. If they did, why did Jesus have to die on the cross? Rejection of the Son is rejection of the Father and quenching of the Holy Spirit. So, the choice is yours and mine. Life is full of choices; choices have consequences. Choose wisely.

Jesus explained how no one can come to him unless the Father who sent him draws them, and he will raise them up at the last day (John 6:44). Jesus also said, “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Notice it is not “many can, some can, a few can,” but “none.” Not one can without knowing Jesus personally as Lord and Savior. If he is Lord, he will be Savior; if he is Savior, he must be Lord!

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 9:23—10:5; Psalm 50; Hebrews 4:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Masasi - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd James Almasi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the organization of the Diocese of Illinois at Peoria, 1835; Trinity Church, Jacksonville, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1835; Birthday of Patricia, wife of The Rev Richard I. Lewis, Danville.

Friday, March 10

Hebrews 4:11-16 *For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.* (vv.12-13)

How much time do you and I spend in God's word daily? Is it 5 minutes, 10 minutes, 30 minutes, or no time at all on a daily basis? The American Bible Society predicts by the year 2020 the United States will be biblical illiterate. Since 1963, when evolution was allowed to be taught as science in public schools, the following things have happened: child abuse is up 2,300%; STD'S are up 385% in the ages of 10-14; violent crime offenses are up 995%; illegal drug use is up 6,000%. You draw your own conclusions.

Ponder that.

Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Psalms 40, 54; John 3:22-36

ANGLICAN CYCLE Maseno North - (Kenya) The Rt Revd Simon Oketch

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to walk in your way more trustfully.

Saturday, March 11

Deuteronomy 11:18-28 *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.* (vv.18-21)

Today's Scripture is rich with guidelines from the Lord God. They could very well be a solution to the statistics of yesterday's reading. What legacy are we leaving our children and our grandchildren?

Ponder that.

Psalms 55; Hebrews 5:1-10; John 4:1-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Masindi-Kitara - (Uganda) The Rt Revd George Kasangaki

DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- *Celtic Charm.*

by Richard Mead

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For the St. Matthew's Community, please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Pray for the sick and those in distress: Linda S., Reva, Jeff B., Jim T., Melissa B., Megan R., Charlie C., Carol K., Amanda D., Drew Q., Wendy R., Eric, Stephanie, Janet H., DiAnne W., Robin L., Carlos L., Charlie, Tim H. and family

Pray for those in military service:

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Ann, Rose Anne.

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Alicia P., Barb W., Daniel T.

Prayers of Thanksgiving for:

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar.