

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII

January 14-20, 2018

Number 2

Sunday, January 14

Mark 3:7-19 *Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. (v.13 NIV)*

This verse is a reminder to me that, just like the disciples, we are each called to do specific work in God's kingdom. In simple form Jesus asked them to teach what he taught and to do what he did. Are you heeding his call? Some say faith without works is not a real faith. The difference I am trying to make here is that our deciding to do something and then asking Jesus to go along with it is not the same as seeking what he is calling us to do. He was specific with the apostles and, if you ask and listen, he will be specific in revealing what he would like you to do. I believe he calls each of us in a specific way, unique and purposeful. Ask him to reveal what he wants you to do.

Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Ephesians 4:1-16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Anglican Church of Australia; The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, The Rev. Dr. Ralph N.

McMichael, Priest-in-Charge; Tura Parish: Rev. Ernest Lugenzi, Tabora, Tanzania;

The Mission of Jesus the Nazarene & Shalom Mission, San Juan de Miraflores,

Peru, The Rev. Patricia Blanchard, Deacon-in Charge. Birthday of The Very Rev

Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Carbondale and of Sandy Moore, wife of The Very Rev Mark

E. Evans, Lincoln; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Cn. David M. and Elizabeth

Baumann, Salem.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Brent Baughan and Harry Bray

Monday, January 15

Genesis 8:6-22 *After forty days Noah opened a window he had made in the ark and sent out a raven, and it kept flying back and forth until the water had dried up from the earth. (vv.6-7)*

I marvel at God's timing. I am always in a rush. I let my petitions be known and I expect a quick answer. Over time I have learned that better solutions sometimes come with patience. Because He does not answer quickly does not mean He is busy or doesn't care. It might just mean He is moving some pieces for a better solution than we can ever imagine. Noah waited forty days—and, by the way, then another seven days. I can hardly wait 40 minutes.

Allowing more time builds a strength that would not exist if everything would be answered in a few seconds. Learn to be patient. Learn to give a request some time. Learn to trust Him.

Psalm 25; Hebrews 4:14—5:6; John 2:23—3:15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Akot - (Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan) The Rt Revd Isaac Dhieu Ater

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Grant us the grace of your holy spirit to devote our heart to you;

Tuesday, January 16

Psalm 26 *I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.* (v.5)

I admit that it is difficult for me to be around some people. It is much more fun to be with someone with whom I agree or with persons who share similar views. This verse seems to give one cover for those types of relationships or actions. The difference that I have come to understand is that we are called to witness to everyone and to spend some time with those we might not find acceptable. We don't need to agree to their positions nor do we need to join them in other ways of living. But we cannot keep God's light under a bushel either.

Grow with a discernment in reaching out to those with whom you disagree in hopes that you can demonstrate a love that might end up being attractive to them someday. Being in a comfortable group is not where God wants us every day. We won't spread His gospel in that way. We need to be available to get out of our comfort zone if we want to do His work.

Genesis 9:1-17; Psalm 28; Hebrews 5:7-14; John 3:16-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Akure - (Ondo, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Simeon Borokini

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord, as this day (begins) (ends), I (we) give thee thanks.

Wednesday, January 17

Hebrews 6:1-12 *Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God.* (v.1)

Many theologians use this verse to enter the discussion about whether one can lose their faith. I understand that discussion, but read this verse in another way. Am I growing my faith by looking for teaching that is beyond the elementary level? I want to read the Bible more, but don't seem to accomplish as much as I would like.

I continue to find more and more wisdom, more and more enlightenment as I read the Bible—and even as I write these commentaries. I claim to want more discernment and more understanding, but I have come to realize that I have not moved beyond some elementary teachings in many ways. My challenge to you—

and to myself—is to get busy in reading Scripture and looking for advanced teaching. We are not called to stay at the milk stage, we are called to advance to some meat.

Genesis 9:18-29; Psalm 38; John 3:22-36

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Alabama - (Province IV, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Sloan

Albany - (Province II, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd William Love

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, keep us in your power.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Bradley Dyson

Thursday, January 18

Genesis 11:1-9 *Then they said, “Come let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”* (v.4)

This story continues to be a great example of man building a temple unto himself. In many ways—some not as noticeable as a tower—I look for ways to edify myself. We all have our temples, and most are not pleasing to our God. When they are tall, like the Tower of Babel, they tend to be easy to spot. But other ways, like wanting to get or take the credit, wanting to always set the agenda, always wanting a result, or not wanting to just be a part of the process are just as destructive. Those signs of control might be just as big as the tower. I find it humorous, at times, that it seems all I am asking for is enough of something so I don't need to rely on Jesus any more.

Ironic? Well, our towers and wanting to make a name for ourselves can run counter to effective ministry and witness. We start striving for our relevance and miss God's significance. Examine your motives; review your actions from time to time. Be honest with why you are doing some things. Lord, create in us a clean heart and then send us out to do Your will, not ours.

Psalm 37:1-18; Hebrews 6:13-20; John 4:1-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Alaska - (Province VIII, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Mark Lattime

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Patronal Feast of St. Peter's, Chesterfield; Pray for Christian Unity.

Friday, January 19

Psalm 31 *But I trust in you, LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.*” (vv.14-15)

Trusting God seems easy at first. My experience has been that it can be difficult. I trust—but I grow weary very easily and very quickly. As I look back,

many difficulties in my life either weren't as dire as Satan would have had me believe or, over time, they became insignificant. But, at the time, I was thoroughly distressed and felt that Lord had left me standing alone.

I have come to appreciate that if all problems were to be answered quickly, I would not have strengthened my faith. I would have just continued to expect quick answers and quick solutions. Both of those approaches rob us of better answers and better insight—because both of those come with time, not quickness.

So, how does God teach us? How does he get us to grow? Maybe sometimes by giving us a more difficult problem or by not answering quickly. Slower answers have helped me develop patience and to wait on Him for better solutions. Most of the time, quick answers are just *my* answers—not His. We need to learn to be patient, grow with endurance, and use difficulties as a means of strengthening our faith. It is a long race, not a sprint.

Genesis 11:27—12:8; Hebrews 7:1-17; John 4:16-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Algoma - (Ontario, Canada) The Rt Revd Anne Germond
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Christian Unity.

Saturday, January 20

Hebrews 7:18-28 *The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. (vv.18-19)*

This verse has really caught my attention. At first, one can focus on the fact that this writing is about how the old law was not sufficient to accomplish God's saving purpose, and that ultimately it was only Jesus's work on the cross that brought us to the perfection God wanted. But with his death came the reality that we now have a true fellowship with God and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have direct communication with Him through Christ.

My challenge is: How is a better hope introduced? I feel we move closer to God through prayer, worship, meditation, and reading Scripture. We can't just sit in the chair and do nothing. That, to me, is an empty faith. The method by which we draw nearer to God is by worshiping Him, learning more about Him, communicating with Him, and by taking time to listen for His counsel and wisdom. Laws and regulations are gone; they are replaced with a live link. Get connected.

Genesis 12:9—13:1; Psalms 30, 32; John 4:27-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Amazon - (Brazil) The Rt Revd Saulo Mauricio de Barros
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Christian Unity.

by Jim Rogers

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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: Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P., Bill J., Ron G., Bill, Bobbi, Matt, Tori B., Dave M., Bill Mc., Linda T., Dottie T., Roger H.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Steve, Lewis, Joseph, Kenneth

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

Pray for: The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. 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.