

Good News Daily

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Sunday, July 2

Romans 4:13-25 ...*being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”* (vv.21-22 NIV)

Taking a person at their word demonstrates trust and confidence in them—it demonstrates faith in them. To take someone’s word as the equivalent of hard proof is to make a statement about what we choose to believe. We could pound a church pew to see if it is sturdy or we could just sit down when we arrive there. Most of us today trusted the pews were sturdy enough to hold us without testing them first. Also, we had some past experience to encourage us to trust that the pews were still dependable this week, too.

That’s the kind of faith Abraham had in what God said to him. He didn’t ask for any other proof. God’s word, His instructions, were enough. God recorded this story so would learn from it and follow Abraham’s example. That’s how we will deserve the same honor and recognition Abraham received.

1 Samuel 10:1-16; Psalm 118; Matthew 21:23-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for Ogori-Magongo - (Lokoja, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Festus Davies;

Ohaji / Egbema - Nigeria The Rt Revd Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John Episcopal Church, Albion, The Rev. Bill Howard, Priest-in-Charge; Mbema Parish, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Can. Benjamin Chishahayo, Rural Dean; Mission of the Medano Cross, Chiclayo, Peru, Rev’d Wilmar Plasencia, Priest in Charge; Birthday of The Rev. Sheryl (Sherry) L. Black, Whittington, IL; and of The Rev. Canon Elliot H. Blackburn, Mason City, IA; Pray for the Church Camp Staff and Participants.

ST. MATTHEW’S: Wedding anniversary of Shelley Carter & Brad Brenneman, and Phyllis Halt’s birthday.

Monday, July 3

Psalm 106:1-18 *But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his counsel. In the desert they gave in to their craving.* (vv.13-14a)

A distant relative contacted us and told us she would be stopping by for a visit. Could we arrange for her accommodations? My wife got on the computer and made reservations for the three days she would be in town.

The day of our visitor’s arrival came and she called. The hotel we sent her to “looked dirty” and “no one was at the front desk.” She had gone elsewhere. My

wife called to cancel the reservation. The clerk said, “I’ve been here since 3 o’clock. We never saw her.”

My wife told me we should say nothing to our guest. At first I disagreed. Then I remembered our daily prayer: “Forgive us as we forgive others.” Thank You, Lord, for reminding me what You said and of all You have done for me. I don’t want to give in to the craving to satisfy myself and end up lost in the wilderness.

1 Samuel 10:17-27; Acts 7:44—8:1a; Luke 22:52-62

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Ohio - (Province V, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Mark Hollingsworth

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Trinity, Lincoln, Admitted to the Diocese, 1871; Pray for the Church Camp Staff and Participants.

Tuesday, July 4

Acts 8:1-13 *But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.* (vv 3-4)

I had been in the hospital a week. My wife stayed in my room, eating her meals there. Then she decided she wanted to get supper in the hospital cafeteria. I hated to be without her but wanted her to have a break. While I was alone I prayed and argued with God about having to be in the hospital at all. I got no answers.

But my wife was practically dancing when she returned an hour later. She had overheard two young nurses talking in the cafeteria. One was distraught because an elderly patient had fallen out of her bed and the nurse was unable to catch her. She was so upset with herself she wanted to quit.

My wife stepped over to their table. “I’m sorry, I couldn’t help overhear—and I want to tell you, you mustn’t quit!” It turned out the nurses were both Christians so my wife prayed with both of them, for their work and their patients! Once again we saw how God is able to turn bad situations into opportunities of blessing.

1 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; Luke 22:63-71

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oji River - (Enugu, Nigeria) The Most Revd Amos Amankechinelo Madu;

Okene - Nigeria The Rt Revd Emmanuel Bayo Ajulo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul’s, Alton, Consecration of present church building, 1857; Birthday of the Rev. David J. Boase, Godfrey; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants

ST. MATTHEW’S: Dave Halt’s birthday.

Wednesday, July 5

Luke 23:1-12 *When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. (v.8)*

It was like a child given a big expensive toy at Christmas. Everyone is laughing when the child ignores the toy hidden under the wrapping paper and just wants to play with the box. The child's sense of values has not been properly formed. The child thinks he knows what he wants, what will bring him the most entertainment. There is no way to talk him into changing his mind. He's made up his mind. He's made his choice. It's kind of funny when a child does it.

It's not funny to see an adult do it. And if he happens to be the king, as Herod was, it is probably impossible to talk him into changing his mind. Jesus didn't even try. Herod wanted to see something amazing. He never recognized the incredible opportunity standing right before him.

Let us be careful that we don't miss the gifts of opportunity God puts before us today.

1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25; Psalm 119:145-176; Acts 8:14-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oke-Ogun - (Ibadan, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Solomon Amusan

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. J. Victor Sheldon, Washington, D.C.; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

Thursday, July 6

Acts 8:26-40 *Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (v.26)*

If the sun rose this morning, you may be sure God has a plan for the day. We may not see or understand the plan fully until the end of the day and maybe not even then. But it's there.

Deacon Philip had seen tremendous miracles and success for the Gospel when he went to Samaria. Now God told him to walk away, down the long, lonely road to Gaza.

But even the loneliness of that road served God's purpose. When Philip hitched a ride with the Ethiopian eunuch, he had an uninterrupted time to teach the man about the Scriptures he had been reading. The eunuch's conversion turned him into a witness for an entire new country and continent. God's plan for the day exceeded anything Philip could have dreamed on his own. All it took for God's plan to succeed was for Philip to go when God said, "Go!"

1 Samuel 13:5-18; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Luke 23:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Oke-Osun - (Ibadan, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Abraham Akinlalu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Pekin. Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

Friday, July 7

Acts 9:1-9 *“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”* (vv.5-6)

Like yesterday, if the sun rose this morning, you may be sure God has a plan for the day. Oswald Chambers says we should not expect that God intends to give us success in our plans. God has His own plan. He is looking for servants who will carry out His agenda, not their own.

Of course, the Rabbi Saul already thought he was carrying out God’s own holy plan. Jesus did not hesitate to stop him and correct him in his tracks. That changed Saul’s direction in life and his name, too. Jesus saw that Paul was dedicated and would make a powerful evangelist for the fledgling church.

To convert him before he could do further damage was also part of God’s plan that day. It would be awhile before everyone else could see that. But eventually the church saints down through all ages would praise God for it.

1 Samuel 13:19—14:15; Psalms 140, 142; Luke 23:26-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Okigwe - (Owerri, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Edward Osuegbu

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

Saturday, July 8

Acts 9:10-19a *“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”* (vv.13-14)

If the sun rose this morning, you may be sure God has a plan for the day. It is probably different from what we expected or asked for, so we may want to argue with God when He starts to carry out His plan for the day. We don’t want God to make a mistake. We want to protect Him from embarrassment.

Ananias couldn’t believe what he was hearing when God told him to go pray for the worst persecutor of the church. Was it possible God didn’t know what Saul had been doing to those who followed Jesus? Or was it just that Ananias did not know what plans God had for Saul that would be a blessing to the church? God knew what He was doing then. Will we trust God to know what He is doing today?

1 Samuel 14:16-30; Psalms 137, 144; Luke 23:32-43

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Okigwe North - (Owerri, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Godson Udochukwu Ukanwa;

Okigwe South - Nigeria The Rt Revd David Onuoha
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Donald E. and Delores
Coventry, Decatur. Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

by Rick Hoover

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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., Carlos L., Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P.,
Linda S., Phyllis P.

Pray for those in military service:

Pray for the Faithful Departed: William, Aaron

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, 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.