

Good News Daily

July 10-16, 2016

Sunday, July 10

Joshua 1:1-18 *"Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."* (v.9c ESV)

In reading the opening chapter of Joshua, I found myself reflecting on leadership, being chosen as the next to lead a group. And this is where I find myself today; it is my turn to lead in a favorite ministry. This transition is both exhilarating and challenging at the same time. We have expectations of ourselves as we grow into the new role. Perhaps we feel that others will have expectations of us that we may not fulfill. We need to focus on the message, "be not dismayed."

The Lord led us to this new role after honing our skills toward leadership through the years. He is with us every step of the way for guidance and a steady path.

Psalms 148, 149, 150; Acts 21:3-15; Mark 1:21-27

Birthdays: Ionie Ashterman, Ryan Mandell, Soyine Richards-Marsh and Imani Sill

Anniversaries: None

Monday, July 11

Joshua 2:1-14 *Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house...* (v.12)

How do we determine whom to trust and whom not to trust? Looking back on those high school years full of insecurities, I remember several times when I shared some secret "stuff" with a "trusted friend."

I believed the information I shared would be safe, but I was wrong. It was passed along. Looking back, the tidbits were silly matters of no importance. But I was devastated because the bond of trust was broken. So who do you trust? In our passage for the day the scouts trusted in the woman of Jericho to hide them and keep them safe. In turn, she trusted them to fulfill their promise to protect her and her family when the armies attacked. Because she knew they were doing God's work and she feared God, she knew her request would be honored. We are taught to trust in the Lord and he will deal kindly with us.

Psalms 25; Romans 11:1-12; Matthew 25:1-13

Birthdays: Donna Carty and Marsha Edwards

Anniversaries: Rev. Robert & Deborah Deshaies

Tuesday, July 12

Psalms 26 *Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.* (vv.2-3)

I promise that this first verse is not a summons that I have called out. There is no need: every day is full of tests of my heart and mind. Did I say the wrong

thing? Did I hurt someone's feelings? Did I remember to help a beloved friend who is struggling with sickness or pain? Did I forget to fulfill a promise or a deadline? Did I remember to thank God for all of His blessings or did I only mention Him when I avoided a dangerous driving situation? Our eyes are blinded by the stresses of daily living instead of focusing on His love.

Joshua 2:15-24; Psalm 28; Romans 11:13-24; Matthew 25:14-30

Birthdays: Nadia Kemp and Camille Stokes

Anniversaries: Tricia & Roger Roberts

Wednesday, July 13

Romans 11:25-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!* (v.33a)

The depth of the riches of God, the wisdom and knowledge of God. To even begin to ponder what those phrases can mean is so far beyond me. We experience the riches of our relationships with family and friends. We are living on this beautiful earth with the riches of its natural resources. Yet all these riches amount to a speck when we ponder what more God has in store for us. We are blessed that Scripture reveals these riches and God will lead us toward a deeper understanding of Him.

Joshua 3:1-13; Psalm 38; Matthew 25:31-46

Birthdays: William Alvarez, Daniel Austin, Molly Fraser, Michael Joy, Jazmine Kiefhaber and Dan Parrella

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, July 14

Joshua 3:14-4:7 *"Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, and command them, saying, 'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.'"* (vv.2-3)

How much symbolism in this passage! To build anything, we need to start at the base and provide a firm foundation. Whether it is a new building or a new relationship, the strength of the structure is a firm base. A perfect example is a mission church where a handful of families with much faith form the bedrock for the growth of a thriving parish. In our reading the twelve stones, one from each tribe, are the bedrock of the new nation in the Promised Land. Only a miracle by God, holding back the waters, exposed those stones. Upon them was built the mighty nation of Israel.

Psalms 37:1-18; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 26:1-16

Birthdays: Pamela Merritt and Anita Pluta

Anniversaries: John & Anita Pluta

Friday, July 15

Romans 12:9-21 *Love one another with brotherly affection. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* (vv.10a, 13)

Today's reading in Romans gives our blueprint for life. It spells out our daily guide for living. I am especially drawn to these two verses as they are fulfilled in two of our parish's outreach ministries. Each Sunday our liturgy is enhanced with floral arrangements near the altar. Those blessed flowers that are then used to create individual floral arrangements which are delivered to those who are sick or not able to attend services. A sunny arrangement and a visit from a saint brighten everyone's day. And monthly, food is delivered to the needy by a small army of saints to provide for their sustenance. We show brotherly affection and hospitality by providing for others.

Joshua 4:19—5:1, 10-15; Psalm 31; Matthew 26:17-25

Birthdays: Roger Bernsen, Aaron Edwards, Mary Gray and Merlyn Osborne

Anniversaries: Leslie & Phyllis Fabara

Saturday, July 16

Psalm 32 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye on you. (v.8)*

Who was your very best teacher? I am sure that you can vividly share a story or two about classroom teachers who imprinted valuable lessons on your life. It may have been your mother or father or a school teacher whose guidance led you to the love of a sport or hobby or how to treat others. I reflect back on lessons I learned as child from my mother. She never hesitated to include me when preparing meals, cleaning the house, or sewing an outfit. The best lessons she taught actually revealed themselves to me later in life. She was patient and forgiving. She never spoke ill of anyone. She was a good friend, visiting folks who lived nearby and keeping in touch by long personal letters to friends who lived at a distance. She read and studied her Bible daily. Her personal Bible had dozens of slips of paper tucked in the pages with lists of references for her study, like personal concordances. She truly walked a path of goodness.

Joshua 6:1-14; Psalm 30; Romans 13:1-7; Matthew 26:26-35

Birthdays: Jonathan Batista, Joyann Burgess, Luc Dussuau, Keith Ellis, Nancy Fishner and Raymond Seow, Sr.

Anniversaries: Craig & Sherri Neita

by Dorothy Magill

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