

Good News Daily

**August 28-September 3,
2016**

Sunday, August 28

Job 11:1-9, 13-20 "Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin." (vv.5-6 NIV)

There are two sides to every story...right? I once heard the quipped response from a friend, "Correct. My side, which is right and yours, which is wrong."

Not so with God's wisdom. There are two sides, yes, but it is not a matter of right versus wrong. Instead it is a matter of acknowledging and absorbing. Scripture tell us that if we lack wisdom we should never be afraid to go to God with our questions (James 1:5). He won't laugh in our face, roll His mighty see-all eyes, or give up on us for our thick headedness. We humbly acknowledge we don't know it all yet He does. This opens the door for honest communication.

Step two is absorbing it deep down into our souls as truth. Even if we don't fully grasp why, we go forward in obedience, assured He will disclose it as we follow step by step—perhaps all the way to the pearly gates—until all is revealed.

The two sides of wisdom begin with the realization God is on our side.

Psalms 148, 149, 150; Revelation 5:1-14; Matthew 5:1-12

Birthdays: Marcia Beckford, Leslie Brown, Tiffany Shams, Chantal Wallace and Henry Zapata

Anniversaries: None

Monday, August 29

Psalm 25 *My eyes are ever on the Lord, for only He will release my feet from the snare.* (v.15)

Sheep are not the most brilliant of animals. Often enticed by their appetites, their short-sighted nature leads them into brambles and vines. These can cause them to stumble and cast over, which means flip onto their backs. They cannot right themselves. They need the shepherd to untangle their hooves and lift them so they may again be uprighted.

I've found it to be very true in my life. My short-sightedness can snare me as I follow the devices and desires of my own heart. But I have learned my Shepherd loves and cares for me anyway. In trust, I can watch Him lovingly untangle me each

and every time. His promise to forgive when I confess assures me I do not have to lower my eyes in shame but, as the old hymn states, look full into His wonderful face. He always watches over me, even when I am headed for the brambles. He calls out for me to stop, and when I refuse to do so, He patiently comes to my rescue.

Job 12:1-6, 13-25; Acts 11:19-30; John 8:21-32

Birthdays: Nancy Austin, Patricia Chimera, Oscar Rodriguez and Robert Torrence

Anniversaries: Nergel & Constance Williams

Tuesday, August 30

Acts 12:1-17 *It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.* (vv.1, 5)

We see it in the news. Christians all over the world are being persecuted, arrested, and even slaughtered for their faith. Perhaps you have already experienced mild persecution in this growing secularization of society. Maybe you've witnessed horrific acts of violence and hatred towards believers.

Jesus stated that the world would hate us. The Apostles wrote letters to their churches stating they should expect suffering. Yet, in the midst of the harassment, miracles can happen. Angels can lead people to safety, and God can purpose good from the evil acts of others. Because of others' martyrdom and firm faith, more are being drawn to the Savior who offers eternal life. Others are, for the first time in a long while, analyzing how much their faith influences their lives and actions.

This is not the time to cower and hold our tongues. It is time to be bold like Peter, Paul, and the other early followers so we can go forth no matter the earthly consequences. Something far better awaits the true believer beyond this life.

Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27; Psalms 26, 28; John 8:33-47

Birthdays: Vijay Bajon and Alisha Bennett

Anniversaries: John & Sharon Lacey

Wednesday, August 31

John 8:47-59 "*I tell you the truth,*" Jesus answered, "*before Abraham was, I am!*" (v.58)

The Jewish scholars gasped at Jesus' words. God had told Moses, when asked what the people should call Him, that His name meant "I am." YAHWEH. God's name became so sacred that, out of reverence, it was not mentioned.

On this side of the Gospel story, I smile at the name God chose to describe Himself. He is

always present, never past. Because I'm a finite human that can only be sure of this very second and heartbeat, this is comforting knowledge.

No matter what I go though, no matter what the future holds or what I did in the past, I trust God is here and now. That's a truth I can cling to on the good days as well as the bad. How about you?

No matter what happens in the next few seconds it takes to read this sentence, God is here. May that thought comfort, awaken, and enlighten you.

Job 12:1, 14:1-22; Psalm 38; Acts 12:18-25

Birthdays: Deborah Anglade, Marie Robinson and Jim Ross

Anniversaries: Felix & Jacqueline Singletary

Thursday, September 1

Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16 "Where then is my hope? Who can see any hope for me?"(v.15)

A few years back I had a "Job" year. Like falling dominos, tragedy after tragedy bumped into my life. I couldn't win for losing. They say things come in threes? Try tens or elevens!

Yet, as I look back on it, there were disguised blessings as well. There were times I felt God's loving breath as close as my own. Over and over He'd provide something that would pierce my heart—a friend at just the right moment, a Scripture verse I could lean upon, a hymn to lift me out of the pit. My writing career flourished as, to His glory, my hardships touched and encouraged other people.

I think we spend most of our lives between the valley and the mountain top, or as I like to state, between the window and the door. But, the next time I have a "Job" episode, may it fill me with hope instead of despair, because it means God is about to do something amazing in my life!

Psalm 37:1-18; Acts 13:1-12; John 9:1-17

Birthdays: Bradley Morgan, Joshua Persaud and Phillip Swann

Anniversaries: None

Friday, September 2

Acts 13:13-25 *After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them [Paul and companions], saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak."* (v.15)

In my Bible Study, the usual contenders spoke up with their view, experience or ideas. Everyone else listened quietly, again. Then, the wise leader spotted one woman with her lower lip tucked

into her teeth. Something in her eyes spurred him to ask, "Sarah, is there something you'd like to add?"

After a few squirms, she took a deep sigh. "Well, it just made me think that..." The next few moments were filled with her profound, common sense wisdom. Everyone's attention became glued to her simple words as if the Almighty Himself had spoken. Perhaps, He had.

The leaders of the synagogue in Acts 13 had the intuition to ask if Paul wanted to speak. Perhaps that was common courtesy since Paul was widely recognized as a learned scholar. However, should it not also be a lesson to us? The least likely person may be prompted by the Holy Spirit to say the most profound thing when given the chance. Be open to it and allow the majesty of our Lord's providence to enter into the conversation.

Job 19:1-7, 14-27; Psalm 31; John 9:18-41

Birthdays: Ruthvin Charles and Edwin Rose

Anniversaries: Charles & Myriam Cook

Saturday, September 3

John 10:1-18 *I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.* "(v.16a)

What are your plans for Labor Day weekend? Labor Day is a secular holiday, but that doesn't mean we should leave God out of it.

No matter where you are this weekend, I hope you take time out on Sunday to flock to worship and become renewed as you sup with Our Lord, the Good Shepherd. You may even encounter others this weekend you can invite into the "pen" as well. Perhaps a family member who is visiting, a coworker who has no place to go this holiday, or a neighbor you have been meaning to get to know a bit better.

This is a three-day weekend, and it is a time to celebrate by relaxing from labor and enjoying life. Even so, the fields are ripe for the harvest and the laborers few. Don't miss the opportunity, if it presents itself, to help others follow the Shepherd as well.

Job 22:1-4, 21—23:7; Psalms 30, 32; Acts 13:26-43

Birthdays: David D'Costa, Ingrid Minott and Marilyn Rogers

Anniversaries: None

by Julie B Cosgrove

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