

# Good News Daily

August 7-13, 2016

## Sunday, August 7

Mark 4:35-41 *And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"* (v.41 NRSV)

Who indeed? A Florida native, I am reminded often by the Lord, via the weather, that I am not in charge here. Storms can quickly move across the state bringing a sudden change in wind speed and rainfall causing the best laid plans to be questioned, then altered, postponed, or abandoned. This week has been stormy. I have opted to hunker down and wait for the storm to pass and the flooded streets to drain before resuming my errands on several occasions.

In the reading for today, the apostles cannot wait out the storm comfortably at home. They are at sea and afraid for their lives. It only takes three words from Jesus, "Peace! Be still!" (v.39), and the storm was over. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for reminding me who's in charge.

Judges 11:1-11, 29-40 Psalms 66, 67; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31

**Birthdays:** Raymond Ally, Larry Burns, Albert Castellanos and Marlene Wepf

**Anniversaries:** Scott & Jennifer Tromans

## Monday, August 8

Psalms 89:1-18 *Happy are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance.* (v.15)

I recently attended a wedding presided over by a Dominican priest. It was a wedding of a member of his parish to a Jew. The priest was most gracious and the ceremony was enjoyed by all those in attendance, regardless of their faith. On this feast day of St. Dominic, I am thankful for the example of St. Dominic of Spain who, according to *Holy Women Holy Men*, formed an order of preachers to proclaim the good news of Christ. I am especially grateful for a particular Dominican in New York City who led a thoughtful and beautiful service and pulled the attendees together in celebration of God's love.

Judges 12:1-7; Acts 5:12-26; John 3:1-21

**Birthdays:** Devon Daley, Gretal McCullars, Damion McIntosh, Iverson Newton and Tarik White

**Anniversaries:** None

## Tuesday, August 9

Acts 5:27-42 *So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail.* (v.38)

I'm sure you've seen it happen. You're at a meeting at work, your child's school, or perhaps a civic organization, and somehow the announced agenda that you saw as organized and reasonable has suddenly devolved into a disagreement between two factions. Emotions begin to show as each side makes its case. The room is getting louder and you begin to worry that things could escalate and get out of hand.

Gamaliel was a wise leader. His words calmed an agitated crowd. His use of logic, expressed articulately, appealed to the minds of the council. They were then able to keep their emotions in check. Lord, send us leaders with this valuable skill, and let us praise this God-given gift.

Judges 13:1-15; Psalms 97, 99, 100; John 3:22-36

**Birthdays:** Anthony Bailey

**Anniversaries:** None

## Wednesday, August 10

John 4:1-26 *Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty."* (vv.13-14a)

Context is everything. I live in a semi-tropical climate where summer lasts nine months of the year. This year, the afternoon rains come like clockwork. This talk of thirst can be hard to understand. Not having visited a desert climate until mid-life, never having to endure thirst an extraordinary length of time, it was hard for me to appreciate Jesus' words at the well when first I heard this passage. I didn't comprehend that water *was* life in that time and place, a most precious resource. This meant that I didn't understand the value of the gift that Jesus offered. The significance is known to me now.

Judges 13:15-24; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 6:1-15

**Birthdays:** Louise Gaudard, Zarifa Innis, Denise Matthews and Luis Vaz, Jr.

**Anniversaries:** Larry & Eva Burns

## Thursday, August 11

Judges 14:1-19 *He said to them, "Out of the eater came something to eat. Out of the strong came something sweet."* (v.14)

Do you ever feel like the words of the Bible are riddles? Sampson's riddle is beautiful in its simplicity. In this case, we've read the back story

(vv.5-9) and we are let in on the answer to the mystery. Sometimes, though, I read a passage and wish the back story were just as easy to find so that the meaning would be clear to me. Fortunately, we have talented preachers and teachers in our parish to help guide us in understanding the Scripture more fully and help us to see how the lesson applies in our lives today. God provides for His people to be fed from His Word.

Psalms 105:1-22; Acts 6:15—7:16; John 4:27-42

**Birthdays:** Dirk Doebler, Steven Fiore, Monique Fraser, Rhonda Shore, Audrey Spicer, Carla Turnquest and Carol Zeik

**Anniversaries:** Spurgeon & Monica Leiba and Steve & Deborah Moody

### **Friday, August 12**

John 4:43-54 *When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. (v.47)*

If you are a parent, chances are your child was ill and you can remember feeling helpless and over-whelmed. There was a time when my son, less than a year old, had many ear infections. He was in pain and, therefore, so was I. The doctors would treat the infection, but it would return again. I felt powerless to help him. This feeling manifested itself and my hair started to fall out. My auto-immune reaction did nothing to help my son. By the grace of God, he returned to good health and so did I.

Today we remember Florence Nightingale, a pioneer in the profession of nursing. The words of the collect for this day in *Holy Women Holy Men* remind us that God alone has power over life and death, sickness and health, and that we should pray for caregivers to bear His presence as they tend those in need of healing.

Judges 14:20—15:20; Psalm 102; Acts 7:17-29

**Birthdays:** Dylan Castillo, Morgan Clarke, Charles Cook, Jr., Sandra Ellinger and Marian Thorpe

**Anniversaries:** None

### **Saturday, August 13**

Judges 16:1-14 *So Delilah said to Sampson, "Please tell me what makes your strength so great, and how you could be bound, so that one could subdue you." (v.6)*

When reading of Sampson's wife's plans to betray him by learning the secrets of his strength I felt like a teenager at a horror movie yelling, "Don't go in the basement!" to the character on the screen. I wanted to yell to Sampson, "Don't tell her anything! She's untrustworthy! Can't you see her bad

intentions?" Then, just like in the horror movie, the poor soul cannot resist temptation and opens the basement door and bad things happen. Sampson eventually gives away the secret of his strength and is done in by his enemies, aided by Delilah.

I wonder how could he not see that she was bad for him? Then I look around at myself and those close to me and I see many examples of having eyes closed to harmful relationships. Sometimes we don't see what we don't want to see. What may be obvious in Sampson's story or in a movie, is much harder to see in the midst of our own lives. We need the Lord's help to surround ourselves with those who lift us up. Let us seek those who bring out the best in us and inspire us to do so for them as well.

Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 7:30-43; John 5:1-18

**Birthdays:** Seva Hulmes, Deborah Morris and Beverley Wong

**Anniversaries:** None

**by Anne Robinson**

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