

Good News Daily

November 6-12, 2016

Sunday, November 6

Ezekiel 14:1-14 *Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying...* (v.1 NASB)

The book of Ezekiel is filled with God speaking to Ezekiel, and as a prophet he is called to share that message with others.

I am confident that the word of the Lord comes to me as well. As a wife, mother, daughter, friend and follower of Jesus, the word doesn't usually call me to share with others. It is more of God calling me to do something or a reassurance of His promises.

I went to the Lord distraught over something with my children. I was heartbroken as I had hoped my prayers and witness as a believer would trickle down to them and their decisions, but it did not. As I was worshipping later, the Lord came to me saying, "I love your child more than you do. Yes, it was a poor decision, but I will redeem this. Trust me; I got this" (loosely translated). What a relief! Thank You, Lord, that You came to me in my heartbreak to say you are faithful and in control.

Psalms 93, 96; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12; Matthew 20:1-16

Birthdays: Winston Cannile, Linda Reynolds, Michael Sahdev and Malcolm Weeks

Anniversaries: Humphrey & Cynthia Braaf and Saidie Lawrence & Earl Bourne

Monday, November 7

Luke 14:12-24 *And when one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"* (v.15)

The message series in church right now is called "Be Multiplied" and the focus is on bringing others to know Christ. The parable of the great banquet talks about God extending His banquet of blessings to all who believe in Him and attend the banquet. But some invited guests declined the invitation because they had other things going on. They chose a career, a hobby, and relationship instead of sitting at the banquet of the Lord and eternal life. Those things aren't bad. They are just temporary and won't provide what the Lord can.

In light of the message series, I am tuned into folks who put other things in the place where the Lord is designed to go. My place isn't to judge those who don't attend the Lord's banquet, but to befriend them, pray for them, and invite them to church.

Lord, place on my heart those in my world who don't know You, and show me how I can be a witness to them.

Joel 1:1-13; Psalm 80; Revelation 18:15-24

Birthdays: Charles Bethel, Wesley Bonnitto, Pamela D'Aguiar, Shane Marsh, Sharon Rose and Daniel Patrick Walford

Anniversaries: John & Gloria Bates, Michael & Gloria Greene and Melanie & Eric Taylor

Tuesday, November 8

Psalm 78:1-39 *They whined like spoiled children, "Why can't God give us a decent meal in this desert? Sure, he struck the rock and the water flowed, creeks cascaded from the rock. But how about some fresh-baked bread? How about a nice cut of meat?"* (vv.19-20 The Message)

"So God, this is how I would like You to answer this prayer... Can't things go the way I want them to? Couldn't this happen? Why does it have to go like that?"

God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt. They had been enslaved for generations and now they were free—headed to the Promised Land. God provided safe passage, freedom, food, water, and guidance—but it wasn't enough. The Israelites complained—they wanted better and more. They sounded ungrateful, entitled, and spoiled.

At times, my prayers resemble the Israelites—always wanting more, wanting what I want. They are ungracious and unappreciative. Instead, I should practice contentment and be grateful for God's blessings. I should trust that He will meet my needs. I should pray for the Lord's will to be done, not mine.

Lord, forgive me when I sound like a petulant, ungrateful brat. I am ashamed. Thank You for Your patience and that You look beyond my greedy behavior. When I behave that way, please bring to my mind the complaints of the Israelites after You rescued them so I will know to change my ways and pray for Your will.

Joel 1:15—2:11; Revelation 19:1-10; Luke 14:25-35

Birthdays: Beau Dussau

Anniversaries: Terry & Errol Champagne

Wednesday, November 9

Luke 15:1-10 *"Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God."* (vv.8-10)

I spent half of my adult life working in ministry, as a student minister and as a worship service coordinator. It is unbelievably exciting when someone who doesn't know Jesus, someone you have built a friendship with, prayed for, and witnessed to, turns to God. Their lives have changed eternally. You just want to celebrate and join the party with the angels. You know their party is rocking!

Now that I have a job in the secular world, it doesn't happen as much. It's my fault. I guess I don't witness to others as much or pray for others to turn to God. I miss that indescribable joy and elation of seeing a life changed.

Lord, forgive me for getting so caught up in my life that I miss out on the parties when one lost soul

turns to You. There are people in my life who don't know You and need a friend and someone to pray for them and someone to witness to them. Show me who should be the guest of honor at Your party.

Joel 2:12-19; Psalm 119:97-120; Revelation 19:11-21

Birthdays: Deanna Douglas, Byron Guy and Pansy Plummer

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, November 10

Luke 15:1-2, 11-32 *"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."* (v.20 NASB)

You can visualize this Scripture in your mind. The repentant, ashamed son returns to his father's house. Instead of punishing the son or making him feel worse that he already does, the father runs out to meet him, welcomes him home, and showers the son with love.

We have all known brothers and sisters in Christ who have screwed up, gone astray, fell to temptation, thought they could do it better without God. There can be a lot of hurt and anger associated with that and we may feel like we never want to see those people again.

It is God's desire that we are all in relationship with Him. He doesn't reject those people or shame them when they return to Him with a repentant heart. They have to deal with the consequences of their sin and those they hurt. But God lovingly runs out to meet them and, with a welcoming embrace, takes them back into His house. It may be difficult, but if the Lord does it, then we should as well.

Joel 2:21-27; Psalms 23, 27; James 1:1-15

Birthdays: Apolonia Browne, Emily Legare and Patrick Saint Fleur

Anniversaries: Darryl & Laurie Tucker

Friday, November 11

James 1:16-27 *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.* (v.22)

We generally think being a doer of the word means: take care of widows and the poor; honor thy parents; tithe. These are physical actions in which we can participate. But there is another way to be a doer of the word.

At the time of this writing, our nation was rocked by the deaths of nine people who were killed by a lone gunman at a prayer meeting in their church in Charleston, SC. A video surfaced of the bond hearing of the man accused of the attack. The video shows family members of the deceased speaking to the accused. They shared their monumental sadness and despair at losing their relative. They wept. Then they expressed their forgiveness of the accused murderer, their hope that he would know Jesus and be saved. That is being a doer of

the word—actually "doing" the love thy enemies; forgive others; pray for those who hurt you—like Scripture says.

Thank you to those believers who showed the rest of us how to get through tragedies and glorify the Lord.

Joel 2:28—3:8; Psalm 88; Luke 16:1-9

Birthdays: Nancy Clarke, Tatiana McDonald and Christabelle McKay,

Anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Corbin

Saturday, November 12

Psalm 90 *God, it seems you've been our home forever; long before the mountains were born, long before you brought earth itself to birth, from "once upon a time" to "kingdom come"—you are God.* (vv.1-2 The Message)

There is a sign above an archway in our house that says, "And they lived happily ever after." When I read this version of Psalm 90, I thought of that sign.

"Once upon a time" there was nothing. God created it all into existence—every part of it, including us. He is all powerful, all present, and all knowing. He was in existence before there was anything else and He will still be in existence when we are no more—"thy kingdom come."

After living thirty-five years with the Lord at the center of my life, through ups and down, rejoicing and weeping, laughter and anger, I am convinced the only way to "live happily ever after" is walking everyday with the Lord. I give You glory, Lord, for Your awesomeness and Your desire to be in the midst of my smallness. Just like Psalm 90, my writing is meant to praise You, Lord God Almighty.

Joel 3:9-17; Psalm 87; James 2:1-13; Luke 16:10-18

Birthdays: Mary Devierno, Johanna Newman, Trevor Osborne, Shawn Plummer and Paulette Superville

Anniversaries: None

by Mara McClain

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING
FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org