

# Good News Daily

March 26-April 1, 2017

## Sunday, March 26

Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22 "O, Hope of Israel, our Savior in times of trouble, why are you like a stranger to us?" (v.8a NLT)

There has been a terrible drought in Judah. Jeremiah admits God's people have turned from Him and that "our wickedness has caught up with us" (v.7). Jeremiah appeals to God: "do not abandon us" (v.21)

How different are we today—distracted by our busy lives and readily available electronics? We are strangers to Him; why are we surprised He is a stranger to us? Whose back is really turned?

Many times I have been distracted and absorbed in my own busyness as a way out of pain, loneliness, boredom, fear of the future, or simply as a way of life. I have a choice. I can "step out of the traffic" as the Message Bible version of Psalm 46:10 states what is usually translated as "Be still and know that I am God" (v.10 NLT). I have a choice to turn to God, be still, step out of the traffic before and during the droughts of my life.

Psalms 66, 67; Galatians 4:21—5:1; Mark 8:11-21

**Birthdays:** Amanda Prawl and Leona Rodriguez

**Anniversaries:** Raymond, Jr & Bianca Young

## Monday, March 27

Romans 7:1-12 *Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.* (v.6b)

Sometimes we get caught in legalism—needing to have a detailed structure to follow, fearing consequences of being outside the lines. Like the Hebrews of Jesus' day, we have to get it right and follow the law rigidly in fear of disapproval and punishment. Or, like the people of Jeremiah's time, we go the other way—flaunting our individuality, "doing it my way," and/or believing "it's about me." Some call those ways our "old nature," some our "flesh." Either is a fear-based life.

We have a choice: live that fear based life or "sing of the LORD's unfailing love forever!" (Psalm 89:1). That's the choice Jesus lived and died for. Receive and experience the Lord's love and love Him back.

Jeremiah 16:10-21; Psalm 89:1-18; John 6:1-15

**Birthdays:** Pamela Barras, Peter Furzer, Christine Gregory and Thomasina Turner Diggs

**Anniversaries:** Terence & Joanna Lee and Lawrence & Velma Trager

## Tuesday, March 28

Jeremiah 17:19-27 "Do not do your work on the Sabbath, but make it a holy day." (v.22)

In many ways I fail to put the Lord first in my life, with work on the Sabbath and in everyday life. Like the crowd who followed Jesus after he fed them (John 6:22-25), do I follow Jesus because of what I want him to do for me? Pausing now and then to pray for what I want from him? Can I make the Sabbath a "holy day"? A day to declare in deed and word, "The LORD is King! Let the earth rejoice!" (Psalm 97:1) and "Acknowledge that the LORD is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3a).

When I spend much or most of the Sabbath, and other days too, looking and listening for the evidence of God around me, I find that evidence abundantly and I am blessed with the joy of praising.

Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 7:13-25; John 6:16-27

**Birthdays:** Winston Norman

**Anniversaries:** Bill & Leslie Brown and David & Paula Morris

## Wednesday, March 29

Romans 8:1-11 *The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.* (v.11)

The Spirit gives life! And from within us. We have been given a 24-hour internal coach! Much more than a coach, the Spirit in us knows us. Because of his love, knowledge, and wisdom, we have that internal coach to guide us in making choices that are life-giving. We have within us a friend and helper who is always available—ever present, never sleepy or cranky. Never takes a day off. Never too busy for us.

As those blessed by this gift, do we take the Holy Spirit for granted or celebrate his presence? Neglect the tender connection with him or stay in conversation with him? Do we stumble through our days trying to figure it all out or receive the safety and the wisdom of his indwelling presence?

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalms 101, 109; John 6:27-40

**Birthdays:** Tristan Anderson, Sanea Nedd, Shawn Nedd, Jennelle Sibblis and Kandra William

**Anniversaries:** Ainsworth & Portia Scott

### **Thursday, March 30**

Romans 8:12-27 *...the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.* (v.27b)

Paul blesses us with a vision of the Holy Spirit active in us and in our lives. As Paul points out, we often don't know what to pray for. We agonize over decisions, life events, illness, or threats to our welfare and that of others. In the midst of pain how often are we stumped for answers? What to pray for? As we grow in relationship and trust can we allow ourselves to rely on the love, knowledge, and wisdom of God as deposited in us in the Person of the Spirit? Can we "groan" (v.26) and depend on his knowledge and wisdom to translate? Can we surrender to the one—the Father—who knows best? Can we pray, trusting the Spirit who "pleads for us in harmony with God's own will"?

Jeremiah 22:13-23; Psalm 69; John 6:41-51

**Birthdays:** Samuel David McDaniel

**Anniversaries:** Reginald & Racquel Husbands

### **Friday, March 31**

Jeremiah 23:1-8 *"I will gather together the remnant of my flock...I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again."* (vv.3-4)

There is a powerful trail connecting today's verses beginning with Old Testament promise and prophesy of consequences, righteous leadership, and safe shelter in one whose name would be "The LORD is Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6b). Then Psalm 102 continues weaving the teaching, "the children of your people will live in security" (v.28). Romans brings home to us the amazing reality of God's plan and our responsibility in that plan as "those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." (v.28b). John 6:52-59 promises everlasting life with Jesus.

I want to be in that final remnant—never afraid again, nothing separating me from God. I want to learn from the disciples, from their victories and their mistakes. Because of the experiences recorded by them long ago we have choices they never had. By sharing their journey, they gave us a trail of faith we can follow.

Psalm 102; Romans 8:28-39; John 6:52-59

**Birthdays:** Jessica Laban, Daphnie Robertson and Kathleen Wiese

**Anniversaries:** None

### **Saturday, April 1**

John 6:60-71 *Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go?"* (v.68a)

Following Jesus was becoming tough. Followers were complaining and leaving. Jesus turns to his twelve and asks, "Are you also going to leave?" (v.67). It's a question that reflects our times also as our culture continues in the "me" direction.

Simon Peter's answer is one for us today as well, "Lord, to whom would we go?" We can choose to spend our lives focused on careers, jobs, body image, seeking approval, or whatever "feels good."

I must daily ask myself if I have left Jesus in any way? "Am I all in?" Like the followers of Jesus, do I ever leave Jesus—even though it may be leaving him at home tucked away in my Bible on a shelf rather than in the world tucked in my heart? Would I or could I be lured away by false teaching or fear or the need to feel good? To whom or what would I go? Looking around at the world today, how would we answer if Jesus asks us, "Are you also going to leave?"

Jeremiah 23:9-15; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Romans 9:1-18

**Birthdays:** Virginia Bennett, Caroline Corris, Cary Spillers and Curt Wild

**Anniversaries:** None

**by Barbara Maybee**

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