

# Good News Daily

June 25-July 1, 2017

## Sunday, June 25

1 Samuel 4:12-22 *And she said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured."* (v.22 NKJV)

If someone thinks that the Bible is only full of encouraging stories, have them look at 1 Samuel. This short section contains more heartache than anyone can bear. Israel has lost to the Philistines, who have taken the ark of the Covenant. After learning this, and finding that his sons have died in battle, the great judge/prophet Eli falls dead, prompting his now widowed daughter-in-law to name her child Ichabod, which means "There is no glory." Worst day ever!

When we go through "Ichabod" times, it's good to know that it isn't forever. Eli had already trained Samuel, who chose Saul and then King David, who became an ancestor of Christ. No matter how bad things get, God's glory will return.

Psalms 66, 67; James 1:1-18; Matthew 19:23-30

**Birthdays:** Tamara Rose and Jazma Schou

**Anniversaries:** None

## Monday, June 26

Acts 5:12-26 *Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women. As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats... (vv.14-15 NLT)*

Recently I visited an exotic animal rescue. The variety of species was breathtaking—from peacocks to guinea pigs, wallabies to giant tortoises, and everything in between. There were even a few chickens and squirrels in the mix. These animals had nothing in common, except that they were brought here because they were sick and discarded by the ones who should have loved them. Now they lived a happy, cared-for life with their other once abandoned brothers and sisters.

The scene seemed to perfectly sum up the early Christian Church, where sick and discarded people were brought to the apostles for healing. No one was turned away. What a lovely picture of Christ's unconditional love!

1 Samuel 5:1-12; Psalm 89:1-18; Luke 21:29-36

**Birthdays:** Trevor Jones

**Anniversaries:** The Very Reverend Albert & Ruhama Cutie'

## Tuesday, June 27

Psalm 100 *Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.* (v.1 NASB)

People raised in the South might recognize the expression "Jesus Shoes." No, these are not the first century "Birkenstocks" that Christ wore when he walked in Galilee. Instead, this saying refers to the tight, shiny, and vastly uncomfortable dress shoes that children wore to Sunday services. Sadly, for many in my generation, worshipping Christ meant droning sermons and unforgiving shoes.

Psalm 100 gives us a different way to worship God—with joyful shouts, singing, and celebration. "Give thanks to Him, bless His name." Personally, I'll take this worship service over tight shoes any day!

1 Samuel 6:1-16; Psalms 97, 99; Acts 5:27-42; Luke 21:37—22:13

**Birthdays:** Hyacinth Davis and Paul White

**Anniversaries:** Mr. & Mrs. Desmond Blackburn and Dennis Rawlins & Barbara Basic-Rawlins

## Wednesday, June 28

1 Samuel 7:2-17 *So Samuel took a young lamb and offered it to the LORD as a whole burnt offering. He pleaded with the LORD to help Israel, and the LORD answered him.* (v.9 NLT)

If you've never used the website "Bible Gateway," you should give it a try. You can compare several versions of the Bible side by side, seeing the differences in each translation. Some differences are small, some big, but they are always interesting. For example, when I compared these verses in 1 Samuel, the thing that jumped out at me weren't differences in the verses, but differences in the passage headings (which were added by the editors).

The ESV edition calls this section "Samuel Judges Israel." In the NLT, it's "Samuel Leads Israel to Victory." The Easy to Read version labels it "The Lords Saves the Israelites." After reading the passage, I'd call it "The Lord Answers Israel" because of verse 9.

Sections of our lives have headings, too. If there is a "passage" of your life with a discouraging heading, please take another look with God's eyes. You might see something new and encouraging. It might be time to change that heading!

Psalms 101, 109; Acts 6:1-15; Luke 22:14-23

**Birthdays:** Candy Mixsell

**Anniversaries:** Ruthvin & Serline Charles; Byron & Audrey Guy and Paul & Sandra Sampson

## Thursday, June 29

Luke 22:24-30 *"Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves."* (v.27)

On the night of January 13, 1982, Air Florida Flight 90 crashed into the freezing waters of the Potomac River. Only six people survived the crash, and they were quickly dying in the icy water. A lone helicopter dropped a lifeline into the hands of a passenger. But, instead of using the lifeline to save himself, the man passed it to a woman beside him who was pulled to safety. This happened four more times, with the man always passing the lifeline to another. Five people were saved, but the man who had risked his safety to help five total strangers ultimately drowned.

When Christ told his disciples about serving others at the table, I don't think he was talking about passing trays of Vienna sausages. He was talking about men like Arlen Williams, who "served" five strangers at the cost of his own life. Being a servant is not about the canapés.

1 Samuel 8:1-22; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 6:15—7:16

**Birthdays:** Ivylin Adlam, Alana Freedman, Anita Lowe, Vanessa Masters, John Pluta and Bernard Shaw

**Anniversaries:** Barrington & Marjorie Edwards, Dorian & Maria Edwards and Leo & Hazel Mitchell

## Friday, June 30

1 Samuel 9:1-14 *There was a wealthy, influential man named Kish from the tribe of Benjamin.... His son Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land. One day Kish's donkeys strayed away, and he told Saul, "Take a servant with you, and go look for the donkeys."* (vv.1-3)

This passage always hits my heart in a particularly painful way. We are introduced to Saul, a handsome and loyal young man who had everything—wealth, looks, kindness, and brains. Heck, he even cared for wayward donkeys! He had it all...and yet this promising young man became King Saul, one of the most paranoid and tragic rulers in history.

Thousands of scholars have researched Saul's prideful slide from glory to madness, with many saying he richly deserved his fate. But my heart still breaks for this good son who made so many bad choices. If you have an unrepentant friend or relative, please pray for them. God has seen far too many Sauls.

Psalms 102; Acts 7:17-29; Luke 22:31-38

**Birthdays:** Adriana Castellanos, Michael Wright and Richard Yacinthe

**Anniversaries:** Steven & Tara Fiore

## Saturday, July 1

Luke 22:39-51 *And one of them struck at the high priest's slave, slashing off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this." And he touched the man's ear and healed him.* (vv.50-51)

Of the thirty-one healing miracles recorded in the gospels this one stands apart. While Christ's other healings dealt with curing disabilities, diseases, or death, this one dealt with a healing caused by violence. And, because of this, I find this one of the most encouraging healings of all.

I'm sure that Peter (John's gospel names him as the sword wielder) was only trying to defend his master, but striking out wasn't the right way. But, instead of lecturing Peter or berating his accusers, Jesus simply healed the man—a man with no faith, who clearly wished Jesus ill. The reason for the wound, the hatred of Jesus by the slave, even the powerful foes surrounding him, didn't matter a wit. Christ simply saw a human being in need of healing and healed him—period.

1 Samuel 9:15—10:1; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 7:30-43

**Birthdays:** Geraldine Baldie, Sara Burley, Gina Cassarino, Taryn Cuddihy, John Schebora, Vernal Simpson and Selwyn G. Thomas

**Anniversaries:** John & Linda Reynolds

### **by Ruth Owen**

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