

Good News Daily

July 30-August 5, 2017

Sunday, July 30

Romans 12:9-21 *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* (v.14 NIV)

I once worked with a younger woman who took a great disliking to me. I'm not sure exactly why. I believe it had something to do with my faith. I was not silent about my faith in Christ and it somehow offended and bothered her. She would go out of her way to make nasty comments and complaints towards me. Being a Christian and wanting to please God, I always held my tongue and did not reply to her accusations or complaints.

Sometime later it was announced that she was expecting her first child. I wasn't overly happy or excited for her at first hearing. But then God worked on my heart and mind and gave me the idea to buy a gift for her and her child. I admit, that was not my first thought or plan!

But after buying a nice gift for the child and giving it to her, things changed a bit. We never became good friends but the animosity was gone and she no longer looked for outward ways to attack me personally. God had overcome evil with good. We do well to take heed to God's advice in the Bible.

2 Samuel 1:17-27; Psalms 24, 29; Matthew 25:31-46

Birthdays: Keiva Greene and Sacha Hopper

Anniversaries: None

Monday, July 31

Acts 15:36—16:5 *So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.* (v.5)

This passage in Acts makes me think of my own home church. It talks about people of the faith preaching the word, strengthening churches, and also about people in general. I think of the leadership of our church when I read this.

When Paul and Barnabas parted ways they did so because of a "sharp disagreement". Many times, in leadership especially, you can find this to be true. There is a disagreement and hopefully a Biblical response and resolution. But also the Word of the Lord continues to be spread and the church in general is still strengthened. People can disagree in leadership and yet still maintain a relationship with others and with God.

This passage reminds me to pray for our church and its staff. The enemy prowls around seeking whom he may devour. We have the responsibility to pray for our pastors and teachers

and leaders for unity in the Spirit. Have you prayed for your pastor recently? If not, do so today.

2 Samuel 2:1-11; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Mark 6:14-29

Birthdays: Maggie Rae Moody

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, August 1

Mark 6:30-46 *They all ate and were satisfied.* (v.42)

You know that full feeling you get after eating a good meal? It's that feeling of being content and satisfied. This is what I believe the people felt after Jesus' feeding of the five thousand.

The story tells us that there were only five loaves of bread and two fish to feed thousands of people. Then after Jesus blessed the food and broke the loaves it was multiplied to feed the many who were there. The story also tells us the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of leftovers. That is a lot of leftovers!

Not only does this story show us provision, multiplication, and miraculous power, it shows us God satisfies. Jesus didn't just serve up little tiny scraps and pieces for people to eat. The story shows us they ate and were satisfied to the full. Jesus not only filled their stomachs but also their souls. This is God's provision for us as well. When we feed on Him and His provision, we can be satisfied to the full. I give thanks for God's glorious abundance in all that He does.

2 Samuel 3:6-21; Psalms 61, 62; Acts 16:6-15

Birthdays: Marjorie Edwards

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, August 2

Mark 6:47-56 *He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth hour of the night he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them...* (v.48)

I have a question when I read this passage. I wonder why Jesus was about to pass by the disciples. It is curious to me that Scripture includes this phrase in the NIV. I don't have an answer. Instead I see Jesus' compassion in the next verse.

The next verse tells us that the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water. It also tells us they cried out in fear, thinking he was a ghost. The NIV uses the word "immediately" to describe Jesus' action. He calls out to them and gets into the boat with the disciples.

I can only think that Jesus saw his friends straining at the oars and the look of fear in their eyes when he was about to pass them by. He also heard

the panic in their voices when they cried out in fear, thinking he was a ghost walking on the water. In his compassion, Jesus changed his mind of walking on water the rest of the way and got into the boat with the disciples instead.

And so it is with us. Jesus sees our struggles and fears and enters our "boat" with us, bringing calm and peace. I give thanks to Jesus for his former humanity and understanding my fears and struggles.

2 Samuel 3:22-39; Psalm 72; Acts 16:16-24

Birthdays: Carl Belnavis

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, August 3

Acts 16:25-40 *He was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.* (v.34b)

I belong to a small group of women who study the Bible weekly. Each of us are mothers and also have grandchildren. A prayer request that comes up often is the salvation of our family members—especially our children and grandchildren.

We believe the greatest gift and legacy we can pass down in our family is a saving knowledge of God and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is our hope and desire for those within our families.

This passage is an encouragement that God also has the welfare of both individuals and families in mind. May we keep praying for our families to come to a saving knowledge of Christ no matter how impossible it may seem. God wants our family to know Him personally too. Thank God for His indescribable gift of knowing Him.

2 Samuel 4:1-12; Psalms 70, 71; Mark 7:1-23

Birthdays: Sandra Augustin, Sheila Bryan, Richard Chang, Marissa Franco-Velez and Patricia Mason

Anniversaries: None

Friday, August 4

2 Samuel 5:1-12 *And he became more and more powerful because the LORD God Almighty was with him.* (v.10)

When I first came to know Christ, I had a lot of bad habits. It was hard for me to say no. It was hard to say no to drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and even other people. I wanted to clean up my life and stop the habits I knew were dishonoring to God. But I was weak. My Spirit was willing but the flesh was strong. I needed God's help in many areas.

The more I said no to these habits, the stronger I became in following God. I had to do my part in saying no to certain things. As I asked God's help and continued to read the Bible and quote it often, the stronger I got. My Spirit grew in the ability

to say no to the "bad" things and yes to the right way of living. The Holy Spirit became more prevalent in my life and showed in the things I did and did not do. I did my part and the Holy Spirit gave me power when I needed it the most. And now I can say, with confidence, that the Holy Spirit is more powerful in my life than ever.

Psalm 69; Acts 17:1-15; Mark 7:24-37

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: None

Saturday, August 5

2 Samuel 5:22—6:11 *David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?"* (v.9)

Before I came to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I was afraid of God. I was afraid God was angry with me. I was afraid God did not love me. I was afraid that God wanted to punish me for all my sins. I was afraid in other ways too. I was simply afraid of this concept of God in general.

I, like David, did not understand how God (the ark), could ever "come to me." Then I heard the gospel and good news about Jesus Christ. I came to understand John 3:16. I began to understand God's love for me through His Son Jesus Christ. I learned that "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him" (John 3:17).

I came to understand God's love for me. Now I am no longer afraid of God. I am certain of His love for me. I stand confident in the words of Jesus, "I no longer call you servants...Instead I have called you friends" (John 15:15).

Psalms 75, 76; Acts 17:16-34; Mark 8:1-10

Birthdays: Karla Castellanos

Anniversaries: George, Jr. & Jennifer Chang, Deric & Patricia Officer, Joyce & Huntley Restal and Marcia & Raymond Young

by Pamela Newton

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