

# Good News Daily

August 13-19, 2017

## Sunday, August 13

Romans 15:1-13 *And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.* (v.4b NLT)

Don't you just love the season of waiting? I especially love that God, clearly, is not on our time watch. I often find myself in a continual season of waiting; choosing to believe that what God has spoken over me is truth, whether or not I can see it tangibly. I've had numerous prophetic words spoken over me, though many of these words seem foreign—or carry the illusion of the impossible.

The season of waiting on God's fulfillment of promises always brings me back to the great characters of the Bible. Scripture tells the legendary stories of heroic men like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, King David, Paul, etc. Though these men could not see the fulfillment of the promise even in the distance, and their situation seemed impossible, God always proved himself faithful.

These stories give me hope to believe beyond what I can see.

2 Samuel 13:1-22; Psalms 66, 67; John 3:22-36

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

**Anniversaries:** None

## Monday, August 14

Psalms 89:1-18 *Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD.* (v.15)

There are two words that strike me every time I read this verse: happy and joyful.

For those of you who grew up in any kind of religion, I'm sure you will understand me when I say my first inclination when I hear "the call to worship" is by no means associated with happiness, and definitely not joy. For most of us, I can only assume the phrase "call to worship" is out of responsibility—it's just something you do every week out of response to your religious traditions.

The more I fall in love with the Lord, though, the more I find myself relating to the psalmist. It has become my joy to walk in the light of His presence and continually proclaim His praises. I have encountered God's goodness no matter my circumstance, and have realized I am meant to come before His throne with happiness, joy, and laughter. Jesus calls us to be like little children. And as a child I'll come.

2 Samuel 13:23-39; Acts 20:17-38; Mark 9:42-50

**Birthdays:** Gloria Hood and Robert Mulvaney

**Anniversaries:** None

## Tuesday, August 15

2 Samuel 14:1-20 *But God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises his ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him.* (v.14)

Ever find yourself drawing conclusions about people? Specifically, those like the addicts, the prodigals, the homeless, the mentally ill, etc.? We often think to ourselves, "That person is at the point of no return." I've caught myself doing this from time to time. I might not even be aware of it, but subconsciously there's something that shifts in me as I begin to label them "lost cause." Inevitably, I stop hoping, stop pursuing, stop loving.

I'm so thankful Jesus did not deal with me this way. He never once labeled me "lost cause" no matter how far gone I was. He loved me and pursued me. In the depths of my sin he went out of his way to beckon me back into his deep infinite love.

Psalms 97, 99, 100; Acts 21:1-14; Mark 10:1-16

**Birthdays:** Trevor Colley, Lili Distefano, Barrington Edwards, Olivia Lewis, Evangelina Mendiola and Nergal Williams

**Anniversaries:** Kevin & Alicia Walford

## Wednesday, August 16

Mark 10:17-31 *Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God."* (v.27)

I remember the day I found out my friend was healed of cancer. Many of my friends (including myself) were not even aware she was sick. The Holy Spirit had spoken to her clearly. He said, "You will be healed," and she believed him with her entire heart. And she was. It was a radical, supernatural, doctors-cannot-explain type of healing.

And this day—the day supernaturally defeating cancer became a reality—was the day I realized nothing is impossible for God. Jesus turned the philosophies and natural laws of man upside down the moment he came to earth and defeated death once and for all.

So yes, humanly speaking we face impossible situations every day. Heavenly speaking, we are more than conquerors.

2 Samuel 14:21-33; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 21:15-26

**Birthdays:** Chelsea Rodriguez, Aurora Seidner and Alejandra Stoddart

**Anniversaries:** None

### **Thursday, August 17**

Mark 10:32-45 *"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (vv.43b-45 NIV)

What a great philosophy, right? Ha! Though I love the teachings of Jesus, becoming a servant among humanity is not exactly my greatest strength. I live in a self-gratifying world; often finding myself living according to my cravings of the moment. Whether it is food, activities, specific people, podcasts, books, etc., I'm always craving something. This results in the constant battle between serving myself or serving those around me.

In order to practice what Jesus taught, I've got to learn surrender. In order to be a servant among many, I must practice sacrifice. I must lay down my agenda before my brothers and sisters in need—caring for the widows, the oppressed, and abandoned.

I'm convinced this is what moves the Father's heart more than anything else—when we lay our lives down for the sake of another, and love the way Jesus loved.

2 Samuel 15:1-18; Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 21:27-36

**Birthdays:** Rev. Robert Deshaies, Andrew Grabin, Benito Lazo and Sophia Lazo

**Anniversaries:** Shane Marsh & Soyini Richards-Marsh

### **Friday, August 18**

Mark 10:46-52 *"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.* (vv.51-52)

I've always wondered why Jesus didn't just heal every person automatically. Sure, he healed a few people apart from their role, but I've noticed specific miracles written within Scripture carry a common theme. People who received healing, had to want it. And not only did they want it, but they had to vulnerably hope, at the risk of disappointment.

I often find that hope in God can feel scary. It's like putting my heart out on the table, exposing my inner-most desires and what I truly want, though it could result in a serious let-down. It is in that place though, at the risk of rejection, hurt, wounds, disappointment, I open my heart and encounter the one thing my soul has desperately been searching for—His perfect love.

2 Samuel 15:19-37; Psalm 102; Acts 21:37—22:16

**Birthdays:** Philip Ashterman, Howard Francis and Lois Whitely

**Anniversaries:** Richard & Linda Spillers

### **Saturday, August 19**

Psalm 108 *My heart is confident in you, O God; no wonder I can sing your praises with all my heart!* (v.1 NLT)

Why is it that heart-confidence and head-confidence seem like quite the different journeys? Personally, my mind has known I can find my confidence in the Lord since before I can consciously remember. But my heart? Oh, my heart. That's a different story. Logically, God can do anything. He is my protector, provider, comforter, friend, etc. I don't recall my heart believing this for quite some time though.

God had to meet me in the darkest of places. He broke through my walls as I encountered Him in a way that my heart could never forget. Now we've made history together. And I can boldly say, "Yes, God, my heart is confident in You."

2 Samuel 16:1-23; Psalm 107:33-43; Acts 22:17-29; Mark 11:1-11

**Birthdays:** Leah Kemp and Monica Leiba

**Anniversaries:** None

*by Janae Schirle*

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