

Good News Daily

August 6-12, 2017

Sunday, August 6

Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.* (vv.11-13 NIV)

I love this promise of the Lord's judgment of the earth. I know the emphasis is usually on man's well-deserved judgment. But in this instance, it's the earth's turn. And, oh what a relief it will be. I believe man was given dominion over the world—as a husband, a caretaker, a gardener—but not as a destroyer. My heart grieves for the incredible damage I see inflicted upon our mutual home. Let's name a few: global warming, deforestation, desertification, species extinction. Enormous issues that, to fix, will require the cooperation of vast groups of unrelated people who have conflicting interests and goals. I pray for the success and continuing support of all good men and women who work to identify and repair the damage which, in our ignorance, we as a people inflict upon our planet.

2 Samuel 6:12-23; Psalm 93; Romans 4:7-12; John 1:43-51

Birthdays: Jennifer Chang, William Devierno, Roy Reid, Maisie Reynolds and Mike Roy

Anniversaries: John & Gretal McCullars

Monday, August 7

Mark 8:11-21 *The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a miraculous sign? I tell you the truth, no sign will be given to it."* (vv.11-12)

Right after Jesus has miraculously fed a crowd of four thousand with seven loaves of bread, the Pharisees come and seek a sign from Jesus. "He sighed deeply..." What an understatement, huh? Jesus did the miraculous in feeding the multitude. And that wasn't enough. They wanted more. More certainty. More assurances. More conviction. A sign from heaven! I have given God many opportunities to sigh deeply over my performance in my life. I have asked the same foolish questions over and over despite having been "fed" by a daily abundance of miracles.

So now, when I contemplate the true miracle of my acceptance by God as one of His children, I know that there is no need for any further sign. I've

been fed once and for all. The questions are now replaced by trust.

2 Samuel 7:1-17; Psalm 80; Acts 18:1-11

Birthdays: Raymond Ally, Larry Burns, Albert Castellanos and Marlene Wepf

Anniversaries: Scott & Jennifer Tromans

Tuesday, August 8

Psalm 78:1-39 *Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them. Time after time he restrained his anger and did not stir up his full wrath. He remembered that they were but flesh, a passing breeze that does not return.* (vv.38-39)

This psalm is all about the stubbornness and fickleness of the people of Israel as they worship and then fall away from God's teachings. And the same thing applies to me, even to this day. I've heard the Word, been the recipient of His grace, enjoyed abundance, and still have sinned. And "yet he was merciful!"

I've been given a lot in this life for which to be grateful. Certainly, of great importance, is the realization that my creator has a full and complete understanding of my frailty. That God, in his mercy, withholds his just wrath against me. That my fleeting presence on this earth is one in which God wishes to communicate and embrace me in love. Amen.

2 Samuel 7:18-29; Acts 18:12-28; Mark 8:22-33

Birthdays: Devon Daley, Gretal McCullars, Damion McIntosh, Iverton Newton and Tarik White

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, August 9

2 Samuel 9:1-13 *Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"* (v.8)

Mepibosheth was the crippled grandson of Saul and son of Jonathan. King David, in his power, decides that he will honor his relationship with and promise to Jonathan and restore Mephibosheth to his lands. David breaks with his cultural traditions! Any other king would extinguish the blood line of any possible contender for the throne. But not David.

"A dead dog like me." That makes me laugh. Am I not a dead dog too? But my King has also broken with tradition. He makes me whole. He invites me to sit and feast at His table. The table of spiritual food that nourishes my soul. He restores me to a place of honor with His own children. Is there enough time to express the gratitude He deserves?

Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 19:1-10; Mark 8:34—9:1

Birthdays: Anthony Bailey

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, August 10

Psalm 145 *The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.* (v.18)

To know God, is to love God. And this psalm talks about the wonderful praises that are made to Him. But the reality is such, that showing up in church on Sunday is not a litmus test of whether I am a real follower of the Way. Am I walking the walk and not just talking the talk? "Call on him in truth." That is so hard to do every minute of every day for me.

It is exhilarating to feel God's presence in my life and know (the truth) that He is with me every minute of my walk. Is it not astounding that He loves me in my weakest moments?

2 Samuel 11:1-27; Psalm 83; Acts 19:11-20; Mark 9:2-13

Birthdays: Louise Gaudard, Zarifa Innis, Denise Matthews and Luis Vaz, Jr.

Anniversaries: Larry & Eva Burns

Friday, August 11

2 Samuel 12:1-14 *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die."* (v.13)

Nathan rebukes David for committing adultery with Bathsheba and ordering the murder of her husband Uriah. And only then does David acknowledge the fact and admit he has sinned. Another great example of understatement.

When my God looks into my heart, he sees everything—including the things I hide from the world. Rebuke comes to me now from the Holy Spirit. Mercifully, the Spirit is guiding my conscience more consistently these days. This story of David's great sin gives me hope in God's unfailing love and desire for me to choose His path.

Psalm 88; Acts 19:21-41; Mark 9:14-29

Birthdays: Dirk Doebler, Steven Fiore, Monique Fraser, Rhonda Shore, Audrey Spicer, Carla Turnquest and Carol Zeik

Anniversaries: Spurgeon & Monica Leiba and Steve & Deborah Moody

Saturday, August 12

Mark 9:30-41 *"Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us."* (vv.39-40)

The apostles told a man to stop driving out demons in the name of Jesus "because he was not one of us." I guess they had a far different understanding of how the work of God was going to proceed in the world. It was going to be powerful—and they would be the ones to administer that power. But Jesus had a better plan. When "good" is let loose in the world it tends to prosper and thrive.

So, when I realize that miracles are for real, and personal and prevalent in my life, there is no going back to a world without Jesus. I have a powerful trust in God's plan. It is plan that allows me to face an uncertain future with all its distractions that work to wear and abrade at my confidence, a confidence that relies on the Lord's continued presence in my life and work and community.

2 Samuel 12:15-31; Psalms 87, 90; Acts 20:1-16

Birthdays: Dylan Castillo, Morgan Clarke, Charles Cook, Jr., Sandra Ellinger and Marian Thorpe

Anniversaries: None

by Larry Standish

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