

Good News Daily

January 17-23, 2016

Sunday, January 17

Ephesians 4:1-16 *Therefore I, prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead the life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.* (v.1 NLT)

What would a life “worthy of my calling” look like?

As I spend time in God’s Word, interacting with His Spirit, and watching other mature followers, I have come to believe that it would be a life that isn’t driven by fear. This “worthy of my calling” life would be motivated by love and joy to see even the messiest situations of my life from God’s perspective. It would be courageous, not cautious. I would live it out loud, not hiding, light-hearted, not broken-hearted. I would declare the positive things God is doing instead of the negative things my eyes focus on.

I can be ready at all times to share this “good news” with everyone, wherever I am. Sharing my authentic struggles and how Jesus is with me in them is “real” Christianity.

Lord Jesus, you called the twelve (Mark 3) to follow you and you have called us. Please give us the strength to live lives worthy of that call. Be honored and glorified in all we say and do. Amen.

Genesis 7:1-10, 17-23; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Mark 3:7-19

Birthdays: Janice Alleyne and Gary Zeik

Anniversaries: None

Monday, January 18

Hebrews 4:14—5:6 *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.* (v.15-16)

In the old covenant the High Priest had the authority to offer a sacrifice to cover the sins of the people. Only one High Priest at any given time had that privilege. In the new covenant Jesus has become our High Priest for all time. Being the eternal sacrifice he took all my sins—past, present, and future—to the cross and left them there. So where do I get this boldness to approach this gracious God? He won that boldness for me when he rose from the dead. I can confidently draw close to him as friend and source of all that I need. Today I need the comfort of his closeness and his direction to make a decision that will affect a large number of people. Today, as I ask for this blessing myself, I pray your spirit will

perceive Jesus’ directions and the grace to obey.

“Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you” (Psalm 25:4-5).

Genesis 8:6-22; Psalm 25; John 2:23—3:15

Birthdays: Cheryl Bradford, Wyatt Braun, Geraldine Farley, Carla Sanoir-Duff, Vinette Thomas and Mark Tromans

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, January 19

Psalm 28 *The LORD is my strength and my shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.* (v.7)

Lord, I am so grateful for Your strength and the way You are healing my daughter after her surgery this week. Thank You that my heart can trust You to care for the ones I love. You are the one that knows the end of every story.

I sense Jesus saying to me, “You are my precious child and I treasure you and your daughter. I see when you are worried and I hear your cries. I know it is difficult for you when you can’t see the end of the story. I am strong enough to carry you. Great is my faithfulness.”

He helps me and my heart is filled with joy.

“While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God” (Hebrews 5:7)

Genesis 9:1-17; Psalm 26; Hebrews 5:7-14; John 3:16-21

Birthdays: Eric Franco-Velez

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, January 20

Hebrews 6:1-12 *So let us stop going over the basic teachings of Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding.* (v.1a)

Now that I have received His saving grace (God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense) and am aware of the power of His Spirit that has been placed within me, I want to move forward. Moving forward in my relationship with God requires that I spend quality time listening to Him and responding in obedience to all He instructs me to do. Relationships that are growing (both earthly and heavenly) grow because of quantity and consistency of interaction. This listening calls me to share what I believe I have heard with other mature Christians so that I can grow in discernment. Lord, I want to test all things so that I

am not misled.

I bless you today with deep revelation from the heart of God concerning His great love for you. I bless you with experiential knowledge of who you are in Christ, so that you can stand tall and do all God has planned for you. Amen.

Genesis 9:18-29; Psalm 38; John 3:22-36

Birthdays: Joseph Adlam, Hannah Bwomezi, Ryan Cassarino, Kelsey Decker, Janelle Doharty, Audrey Guy, Andrea Jones, Stephen Kemp, Terri-Ann King, Kelsey Mulvaney, Nicole Plummer, Tracey Richardson and Lydia Tucci

Anniversaries: Oswald & Alison Hixon and Bernard & Norma Shaw

Thursday, January 21

John 4:1-15 *Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water."* (v.10)

Dear Jesus, I am so thirsty for you today. Jesus, this Samaritan woman at the well wasn't even aware how thirsty she had become until you approached her, but I am. No amount of activity or even ministry can satisfy the thirst that can only be quenched by one moment of being held and loved by you. As I leave the world behind and enter into my spirit connection with you, I am refreshed like standing under a waterfall on a hot day. Lord, you are the life-giver. I receive your love and peace.

"But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life" (v.14).

Genesis 11:1-9; Psalm 37:1-18; Hebrews 6:13-20

Birthdays: Kathleen Konior, Tyler Plummer, Elizabeth Sallee, Anthony Trotman and Nichollette White

Anniversaries: None

Friday, January 22

Hebrews 7:1-17 *Melchizedek met him and blessed him....And without question, the person who has the power to give a blessing is greater than the one who is blessed.* (v.1b, 7)

God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. How then could one be greater than another in this blessing process? What gives us the right to bless another? I believe that this greater position comes to us under the New Covenant of Christ. As I receive and experience a benefit that Jesus purchased with his suffering, death, and resurrection, I can then extend that to another. For example, as I experience Jesus' comfort, I can then pass that blessing of comfort to someone else who needs it.

In Psalm 31, the psalmist is experiencing the Lord's mercy in distress. Only as he receives mercy can he give it.

Lord Jesus, thank you for blessing us with the fullness of your love and power. Today I choose to pass that on.

Genesis 11:27—12:8; Psalm 31; John 4:16-26

Birthdays: Shirley Mogg

Anniversaries: Rene & Marguerite Kocher

Saturday, January 23

John 4:27-42 *The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, "Come see a man who told me everything I did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?"* (v.28-29)

I marvel at this woman's complete authenticity and honesty to those who probably just hours before judged and rejected her. But I believe the encounter she had with Messiah Jesus so filled her with the complete awareness of her forgiveness that she just couldn't keep her mouth closed. I can really identify with her. Jesus has healed my broken heart as I have been able to forgive family members of pain they have caused me and been able to ask for their forgiveness. That is something to shout to the world. Our God is so great!

"Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty!" (Psalm 32:1-2).

Genesis 12:9—13:1; Psalms 30, 32; Hebrews 7:18-28

Birthdays: Frank Desko, Derek Nachtwey, Tyrone Sherlock and Xavier Superville

Anniversaries: None

by Charlene Laird

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