

Good News Daily

February 7-13, 2016

Sunday, February 7

Luke 9:18-27 *Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them "Who do the crowds say that I am?"* (v.18 NIV)

How important are other people's opinions? I have spent a part of my life ever mindful about what others thought of me. That type of thinking lead me to doing things that I thought would please others or would place me in a more significant light. Only later did I come to realize that trying to please others only led to frustration and took me out of trying to have my actions be pleasing to the Lord. Significance comes from doing His work, not my work. What the crowd says about me is far less important than doing what the Lord wants me to do. Gain your importance by keeping your eyes focused on Jesus, not the crowd. One cannot ride salvation or purpose on the back of what someone else thinks or does.

Proverbs 26:1-23; Psalms 148, 149, 150; 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

Birthdays: Dorian Edwards, Aubrey Franco-Velez, Diane Jones, Rosally Mason and Jason Robbins

Anniversaries: None

Monday, February 8

Philippians 2:1-13 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.* (v.3)

Who gets the credit? Often I wanted to get the credit for the work or the deed. In the Lord's eye, He is looking for unity, not individuality. It has taken some growth and a good dose of humility to get me out of the "I want the credit" mode. I am reminded to place others first. This verse reminds me to be a unifying person rather than a person only interested in self. I find that more gets accomplished when time is not spent determining who gets the credit. I want to be certain that I am asking the Lord to direct my steps rather than asking Him to bless the steps that I have already decided on. I want to be fulfilling His purpose through me, not my purpose though Him.

Proverbs 27:1-6, 10-12; Psalm 25; John 18:15-18, 25-27

Birthdays: Philip Branker and Zachary Edwards

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, February 9

Psalm 26 *I do not sit with deceitful men, nor do I consort with hypocrites.* (v.4)

When witnessing or experiencing any program for personal betterment, I always remember the saying, "Avoid the slippery slope." I was reminded to stay away from areas that were previously trouble spots. That all seemed to make sense. What I had difficulty realizing was that some persons did not help me to further develop my spiritual growth. I am reminded here that I am to be a witness to all people. That does not mean to imply that I need to spend time with persons that pull me backward or do not help with my spiritual growth.

Proverbs 30:1-4, 24-33; Psalm 28; Philippians 3:1-11; John 18:28-38

Birthdays: Gloria Bates, Nailah Brown and Yerissa Castillo

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, February 10

Hebrews 12:1-14 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* (v.1)

Some say that comparison is the root of all evil. I have had a difficult time knowing my purpose. Further, when I would do things to enhance my spiritual growth, I compared myself to others to kind of keep score. How was I doing vs. what others were doing? I have come to understand that I am not being compared to the works of others. What the Lord requires is that I finish the race that He has set out for me. My purpose is unique and only applies to me. Therefore, comparison to others is not necessary or meaningful. I will not be judged in comparison to others, but will be required to offer my explanation of how I performed in relation to the tasks given to me. In one way, it is so comforting to know that He has a specific purpose for me. On the other hand, it is not comforting that I am being held responsible for my own actions.

Amos 5:6-15; Psalms 95, 32, 143; Luke 18:9-14

Birthdays: Winsome Boothe

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, February 11

Psalm 37:1-18 *Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For evil men will be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.* (vv.8-9)

Worry seems to be my middle name. I have come to realize that I want control of everything.

Planning in certain ways is okay, but if the planning is to build a bigger storehouse that insulates me from all harm, then that kind of planning separates me from the Lord. I have been on this path. Living day-to-day has a whole new meaning versus planning the entire outcome. Worrying or fretting is a form of mistrust. Mistrust can lead to anger and anger separates me from God. I do not want to be cut off in my relationship with the Lord. Being more patient, praying more, and giving God time to answer have become my new disciplines. I have also come to understand that His promise is to get us through the obstacles, not to remove them.

Habakkuk 3:1-18; Philippians 3:12-21; John 17:1-8

Birthdays: Rissah Ashterman, Laurie Brunot, Dominic Burrows and Alison Hixon

Anniversaries: None

Friday, February 12

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *"What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: 'The fathers eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?'"* (v.2)

Some people believe that the sins of previous generations are passed on to the next generation. This Scripture is comforting in that it spells out that we each are accountable for our own actions. We do not need to carry the burdens of previous generations. It also is a reminder that we do not ride on the back of another person's salvation either. From previous days' reading, it becomes clearer that we each have a purpose and that God has an individual plan for our lives. We are not going to ride someone else's coat tails. I am reminded each day to pray for the eyes to see what the Lord has in store. I am not living another's life. I am living the one that Lord has laid out for me.

Psalms 95, 31; Philippians 4:1-9; John 17:9-19

Birthdays: Sonia Baxter and Leslie Bell

Anniversaries: Daniel & Nancy Austin and David & Heather Rich

Saturday, February 13

John 17:20-26 *"...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* (v.21)

I like being alone at times. But on occasion I have become too isolated and lack in any kind of community. I don't find that to be healthy. Jesus calls us to unity. Unity comes through the building up of others and praying for others. I have found it difficult

to pray for others with whom I do not agree or have gossiped about me or my family. Clearly the Lord has helped me get past this. I pray and give thanks for the difficulties in my life. As I have done that, I sense that I am closer to God. Difficulties become opportunities to sharpen my faith. The discipline about praying for others has been enlightening as well. I think I am seeing what "Church" is all about. I want to build up others, not for what I might gain, but to show how the body of Christ should be built.

Ezekiel 39:21-29; Psalms 30, 32; Philippians 4:10-20

Birthdays: Alicia Kelley and Felix Singletary

Anniversaries: None

by Jim Rogers

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING
FELLOWSHIP
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790
www.biblereading.org