

Good News Daily

June 19-25, 2016

Sunday, June 19

Luke 12:49-56 *"Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other! From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against—or two in favor and three against."* (vv.52-53 NLT)

Jesus was always honest and forth right in his answers and opinions, and he was in this difficult situation. He was facing a terrible baptism of suffering—death on the cross! He was totally God, but also human while on earth. He knew his death would divide people.

The main suffering, I believe, was the separation of people by how we choose—God's loving ways or our own way! God gives us the gift of choice, not forcing us to believe in him.

I think of choice in my daily living, and the choices I have made and continue to make, good and bad. Often I choose thinking what seems right to me. I am not the author of right choice. In Deuteronomy 30:19 the Israelites are told, "Oh, that you would choose life. So that you and your descendants might live." How? By making the best choices, to walk a life of loving the Lord, your God! This is the key to your life, and mine.

Numbers 14:26-45; Psalms 66, 67; Acts 15:1-12

Birthdays: Amanda Bryan, Justin Dunkley, Keshia Ollivierre and Alyssa Peterkin

Anniversaries: None

Monday, June 20

Matthew 19:13-22 *But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.* (vv.14-15)

Someone came to Jesus and asked, "What good deed must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus gave him a hard answer: "If you want to receive eternal life keep the commandments." The young man said, "I have obeyed all these commandments!" Jesus replied, "If you want to be perfect, sell all your possessions give the money to the poor, then follow me!" But the young man went away sad! He had many possessions.

Howard and I had many possessions a long time ago. Living in a beautiful eight room house was evidence. We were in our 30's and new Christians of two years when Howard heard the call from God and to leave that life and join Campus Crusade for Christ in California. We were living in Illinois at the time. We had Robbyn and Bob and that would mean leaving grandparents and lots of family. I was an unhappy wife! We moved to Arrowhead Springs where Campus Crusade was located. We lived in a four room bungalow on the grounds with other families. The bungalow made me unhappy again.

However, we were now under Gods wing! In a short time, I was taken up with what a joy this life was. I was like a child in amazement over my acceptance of this change of life style. Our ministry was all about God, His love, and serving others. I became like a child by God's grace. We often looked back and said that those were the happiest years of our lives!

Numbers 16:1-19; Psalm 89:1-18; Romans 3:21-31

Birthdays: Remington Fiore

Anniversaries: Russell & Jeanne Cheatham and Keith & Catherine Rodriguez

Tuesday, June 21

Matthew 19:23-30 *The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible."* (vv.25-26)

We believe that! Everyone and everything is possible by God. Jesus showed mankind how much he loved us by dying for us and forgiving our sins. We traveled to other states and countries with this wonderful message for years. We observed that everyone who heard the gospel had a choice; some (many) believed the message and some did not. It was interesting that many of the people we met lived very well and had positions of importance. And, when they heard of God's love for them, they became like little children and opened their lives to our Savior.

One such couple was Bill and Sally, who left their home in Connecticut and moved to a community of believers called the Community of Jesus. They built a 16 room home to allow people to visit in a Christian home and atmosphere, where many made deep changes in their lives, honoring God and reaching out to the needy-wealthy.

O the joy of knowing Jesus and realizing how everyone and everything is possible for God. Believe that!

Numbers 16:20-35; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 4:1-12

Birthdays: Ricky Cisneros, Rebecca Rivera and Ann Saunders

Anniversaries: Patrick & Deslin Graham

Wednesday, June 22

Matthew 20:1-16 *"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last."* (v.16)

It is amazing to me that far too often I jump into activities before listening carefully to the details. That is a big problem for me. Not long ago I had a perfect lesson on this. I was invited to a young boy's football game by his grandmother, a good friend of mine. I was impressed with that young team. But the one that stood out was her grandson Ryder. He was focused, watching, waiting, intent on the game. I observed his success and remembered something that Howard had said to me: "Barbara, you only need to

focus on one thing at a time!" He made life so simple when I thought I had a big problem. I realized that Ryder was focused and I saw the results. I tend to have too many thoughts going around in my head. I learned from observing that young boy, so I wrote him a letter thanking him for what I saw in him and how it helped me.

I am still learning how to focus. Today's Scripture tells me there is hope for the lost. Who will be first in our lives and who will be last? God is always teaching us.

Numbers 16:36-50; Psalms 101, 109; Romans 4:13-25

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: Norm & Joan Carroll

Thursday, June 23

Matthew 20:17-28 *But Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (vv.25-28)

The word in that passage that stands out to me is "different." He was saying to James and John that among you it will be different. His plan for his followers is to guide us in a lifestyle like his—different! I have become a devoted follower of Jesus because my husband Howard went to be with the Lord. I was happy knowing he was in heaven but, I was alone. We had ministry together and a loving, joyful marriage for 65 years. I was lost, and I made the decision to turn to God. He knew me better than I knew myself.

I knew that I had to be different. Jesus' message to me in the beginning was centered around being humble and obedient. He was persistent in Scripture with those thoughts, and I am in the process of becoming different as I follow Jesus. He has so many ways to teach me. It is never boring. I am relying on him more now than ever.

Numbers 17:1-11; Psalms 105:1-22; Romans 5:1-11

Birthdays: Tory Dawson, Diane Freedman, Patricia Mantis, David Mason and Sandi Starrett

Anniversaries: None

Friday, June 24

Matthew 20:29-34 *When Jesus heard them, he stopped and called, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord," they said, "we want to see!"* (vv.32-33)

I love what happened after that. Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. Instantly they could see, and they followed him. That is what Jesus will do for each one of us. Jesus often asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" That is often where I fail—time and again. When I fail in life or face a new problem, I often try to solve it myself. If it is not fixed, I often become

depressed and unhappy over my lot in life. I stumble around and feel lost.

Then the Lord gets my attention as I read His word—His wonderful Word of Life. I realize the simplicity of His love. God is aware of my wandering heart, yet He still loves, forgives, and provides His Spirit to release me from myself. And then I am free, free from the bondage of myself.

Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 102; Romans 5:12-21

Birthdays: St. Clair Alleyne, Earl Bourne, Diedre Howden, Zachary Walford and Rick White

Anniversaries: Al & Gloria Hood, Keith & Winnifred Howell and Selvyn & Josette Thomas

Saturday, June 25

Matthew 21:1-11 *"Tell the people of Jerusalem, 'Look, your King is coming to you. He is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt'"* (v.5)

In ministry we learned the great commission—to go and make disciples of all nations. Howard heard that call and followed it with all his heart. I followed Howard in the beginning, but learned quickly that ministry would be easier if I were more willing. Howard encouraging me saying, "Barbara you can do this. Just be willing to follow Jesus and listen to him." And then I would know how I could be more involved. I didn't do that well. I limited myself, saying, "I can't do this travel, I can't do this ministry." But God was at work in my life, changing me, much to my surprise. Shyness was replaced by His love and presence. I was being released from the bondage that I had held me back—shyness, and humbling myself.

I often asked Howard how he felt about new trips or difficult circumstances and he always replied, "I am willing!" So now God is calling me to be different, even though lonely. And I often say, "I am willing to allow God the Holy Spirit to be released in my life for what his call is on my life. Without God's help I can do nothing."

Numbers 20:14-29; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Romans 6:1-11

Birthdays: Tamara Rose and Jazma Schou

Anniversaries: None

by Barbara Ball

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