

Good News Daily

June 26-July 2, 2016

Sunday, June 26

Numbers 21:4-9, 21-35 *But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God* (vv.4b, 5a NIV)

My grandson is just shy of being two years old. On Mondays and Tuesdays, he eats dinner with us. He likes to be in the kitchen where the activity and cooking is taking place. He understands that dinner is imminent and will be on the table soon.

However, he gets impatient when the food takes longer than he wants it to. He pulls his special chair out and tries to climb into it by himself. Then he puts his bib on, thinking it is time to eat. He is most often ready to eat before the food is. Then he begins to cry and say please, thinking this will help the food come faster.

Have you ever become impatient with God about something you think should happen sooner? Maybe you are waiting for God to answer a prayer. Perhaps you are waiting on God to do something sooner rather than on His schedule.

May we not be like the Israelites and end up speaking against God in our impatience. Let us wait upon God for His timing.

Psalm 118; Acts 17:12-34; Luke 13:10-17

Birthdays: Trevor Jones and Tim Taffe

Anniversaries: Rev. Albert & Ruhama Cutie'

Monday, June 27

Romans 6:12-23 *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.* (vv.12-14)

A long time ago I used to smoke cigarettes. I felt this was not pleasing to God and wanted to quit. I had a difficult time quitting.

I had to depend on God's Word and truth to help me stop smoking. This passage in Romans 6 helped me understand that I no longer had to give in to my desire or habit. God said I was under grace—meaning I did not have to obey the lust of my own flesh. After realizing this I soon quit for good.

I give thanks that I have been smoke-free now for more than thirty years!

Numbers 22:1-21; Psalm 106:1-18; Matthew 21:12-22

Birthdays: Hyacinth Davis and Paul White

Anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. Desmond Blackburn; Carl Brown & Jean McGrath-Brown and Dennis Rawlins & Barbara Basic-Rawlins

Tuesday, June 28

Psalm 121 *I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* (vv.1-2)

My husband is a great spouse! He is very hard working and has the gift of service. He is very handy with fixing cars, things around the house, landscaping, and keeps our car sparkling clean and shiny. Sometimes he will even cook dinner for the two of us.

I am so thankful and grateful for the many ways my husband is a help to me. After reading this psalm, God reminded me that everything comes from the Lord's hand, including husbands. Ultimately, my help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth (v.2) and not just my husband. Thank You, Father God, for Your Word that keeps our perspective and lives focused on You. You are a great God.

Numbers 22:21-38; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Romans 7:1-12; Matthew 21:23-32

Birthdays: Candy Mixsell

Anniversaries: Ruthvin & Serline Charles; Byron & Audrey Guy and Paul & Sandra Sampson

Wednesday, June 29

Romans 7:13-25 *What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (vv.24-25)

Before I knew Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, my life was a mess. I struggled with addictions and unhealthy habits and was hanging out with the "wrong" crowd. I knew my life needed changing but I didn't know how or what would help me change. I felt like Paul in these verses above. God knew I needed a personal relationship with Him in order to change. Some people had spoken to me about Christ here and there, but it didn't really make sense to me at that point.

One day, I went to a church service with my mom. The pastor gave a message about receiving Christ and being forgiven and changed because of his power. Even though I didn't understand everything he was saying, I knew God could help me change. I was rescued and saved from my old way of life into a new relationship with Christ! Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 17:25).

Numbers 22:41—23:12; Psalm 119:145-176; Matthew 21:33-46

Birthdays: Ivylin Adlam, Alana Freedman, Anita Lowe, Vanessa Masters, John Pluta and Bernard Shaw

Anniversaries: Barrington & Marjorie Edwards, Dorian & Maria Edwards, Leo & Hazel Mitchell and Keith Samuels & Merle Bogle-Samuels

Thursday, June 30

Matthew 22:1-14 *"But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business."* (v.5)

I am a God follower, a believer in Jesus Christ. When I read this parable about the banquet, God reminded me that sometimes my busy-ness can get in the way of following Him.

I tend to think of my time as my own—not God's. Sometimes, God wants me to do something or minister to someone that will take time. I can rebel and stomp my feet like a little child, complaining I don't have enough time. I have other things to do—like babysit my grandson or go to Bible study. Both of these things are good things, but maybe not what God wants of me on that day.

God wants me to pay attention to what He is saying to me—not merely go off doing my own thing every day. This is a caution to all of us. We need to listen and obey and pay attention to the promptings of God. May God be pleased the next time he taps me on the shoulder and finds I am listening. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Numbers 23:11-26; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Romans 8:1-11

Birthdays: Adriana Castellanos, Michael Wright and Richard Yacinthe

Anniversaries: Steven & Tara Fiore

Friday, July 1

Matthew 22:15-22 *Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."* (v.21b)

Jesus never shied away from talking about money. In fact, Jesus taught a lot about money in the New Testament. Most people are uncomfortable about discussing money and financial matters. Tithing can be a sensitive subject too.

Here, in this parable, Jesus instructs us to pay attention to both earthly matters and heavenly matters. Sometimes the two intertwine, like tithing and paying taxes. God's desire is for me to do both. I need to give God what He is due and also pay taxes.

But this parable is not just about money. It is also about giving God our spiritual worship and using the gifts He has given us. We are encouraged to pay attention to money matters and to spiritual matters.

Sometimes they are separate and sometimes they are not. May God give us wisdom to know the difference and take care of both when we need to.

Numbers 24:1-13; Psalms 140, 142; Romans 8:12-17

Birthdays: Geraldine Baldie, Sara Burley, Gina Cassarino, Taryn Cuddihy, Vernal Simpson and Selvyn G. Thomas

Anniversaries: John & Linda Reynolds

Saturday, July 2

Psalms 144 *LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them?* (v.3)

It's easy for me to love the creation God has made for us. We live in a part of Florida where you can see breathtaking sunsets. We often see dolphin swimming or playing in the water. We can see manatee at times and can spot river otters. We are blessed to live in a place where there is so much wildlife and nature at its finest.

Because we live near the ocean, we also see the ocean and its breakers. You can feel the sea breeze and taste the saltiness of the ocean water. I am always amazed at the incredible beauty and majesty of God's creation.

Then I think of how small and insignificant I am in the midst of a world so filled with abundance. But then I think of how God made humankind as well as all of creation. The psalmist has it right when he wonders how God can care for us as mere mortals. We celebrate that, "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1).

Numbers 24:12-25; Psalm 137; Romans 8:18-25; Matthew 22:23-40

Birthdays: Alani Martin, Beverly Morris-Smith and Sidney Shaw

Anniversaries: Stephen & Wendy Kemp

by Pamela Newton

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