

Good News Daily

September 11-17, 2016

Sunday, September 11

Job 38:1, 18-41 *Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm.* (v.1a NIV)

The suffering of the innocent and the suffering of the righteous are things we will never fully understand. However, Job's plight thousands of years ago can serve as encouragement to us today. When living your best in righteousness, you can be sure that the adversary (Satan) will try his best to drive a wedge between you and God just as he attempted with Job. In the midst of suffering and adversity, Satan delights in our questioning of God. Unfortunately, doubt is a most common human response. In Job 38, God assures Job that He is sovereign over man and all creation, and in a not-so-gentle manner. The familiar saying, "God never gives us more than we can handle," can often be more annoying than it is helpful. However, it could not be any truer. Although we may not understand human suffering, understanding God's character will sustain us. God created the mountains, the seas, the galaxies, but He is not a supreme ruler that is detached from His creation. He created man, and He created man out of love. God is, above all, a loving God. God is love; and God is hope; and God does not disappoint.

Psalms 24, 29; Revelation 18:1-8; Matthew 5:21-26

Birthdays: Kaitlyn Ellinger, Kevin Newman, Rochaya Reid and Enrique Vaz

Anniversaries: None

Monday, September 12

Acts 15:36—16:5 *Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.* (v.3).

Paul wanted to take Timothy along to preach the gospel, but he first circumcised Timothy in order to bring him more credibility in the eyes of the Jews they would be preaching to. There can be two ways of looking at this Scripture. On one hand, we can ask ourselves what we are doing or how we are conforming in order to look better in the eyes of society, the church, and God. In contrast, we can also look at our lives and ask ourselves what it is we must do and what sacrifices we must make in order to lead more people into the kingdom of God. Timothy was a young man at the time of his

circumcision, a great sacrifice on his part for the sake of the kingdom.

When did we last ask, "Lord, how can I be a more effective Christian?" This is not to be confused with earning God's love and favor, for those are gifts of grace. This Scripture calls us to examine our lives as living sacrifices to God.

Job 40:1-24; Psalms 56, 57, 58; John 11:55—12:8

Birthdays: Joel Chin, Peter D'Oench and Marcia Duplessis

Anniversaries: Phillip & Monica Branker, Eugene & Dorothy Simon and John & Kathy Steinbauer

Tuesday, September 13

Job 40:1, 41:1-11 *"Can you pull in the Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope?"* (v.1)

If you have ever watched Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter, surely you have thought, "How does he do that" or "Is he insane?" When Job questions and complains to the Lord, God's response is, "Can you capture the leviathan with a fishhook, tie down his tongue with a rope...fill his head with spears, or make him your pet?" A leviathan was a monstrous marine mammal likened to a crocodile, but far more fierce. God said, "If you lay a hand on him, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing him is false; the mere sight of him is overpowering. No one is fierce enough to rouse him. Who then is able to stand against me?"

We struggle so hard to control our lives that it can feel like wrestling a crocodile. Relinquishing control of our lives to God can be a scary thing, but wrestling that crocodile is far worse! God is God and we are not. He cannot be contained and His plans cannot be altered. His will for our lives is far better than anything we can come up with ourselves. So, let go of that crocodile! God is in control!

Psalms 61, 62; Acts 16:6-15; John 12:9-19

Birthdays: Chrystal Mason and Dawn McGibbon

Anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Williams

Wednesday, September 14

Psalms 119:73-96 *Your hands made me and formed me; give me understanding to learn your commands.* (v.73)

It takes courage, strength, and perseverance to live according to God's will. And often we are not quite sure what His will is. Even the most faithful servants need reassurance of God's hand in their lives. If we are persistent in praying for His purpose and direction, He will somehow reveal himself to us. We will wait endlessly for our circumstances to change, our number to be called, our ship to come

in, or for the next available operator, yet we get so impatient with God. We run our lives according to our time, hoping that God can fit into our busy schedules. And, so often, when God does not deliver in our time frame we take matters back into our own hands. God's timing may not be the same as ours but it is perfect, producing far better results than we ever could. Friends, family, and careers can all let us down. But God is hope, and hope does not disappoint.

Following God's will is not the easy way out. It may bring struggle and persecution. But through prayer, perseverance, patience, and obedience, we will be blessed with the fulfillment of God's promises for our lives.

Job 42:1-17; Psalm 72; Acts 16:16-24; John 12:20-26

Birthdays: Daniel Ciocca and Howard Harriott

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, September 15

Job 28:1-28 *"Where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell?"* (v.12)

Job illustrates the great lengths we go to in order to mine gold, silver, onyx, and sapphires—tunneling through rock to places no falcon's eye has ever seen. We can go to the finest universities, make astounding scientific discoveries, read all the great novels, yet wisdom and understanding and God's love and power alludes us. "Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell?" Job asks again in verse 20. Ironically, it is only through God that we gain wisdom and understanding. "God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens" (vv.23-24).

Although we will never fully understand the mysteries of God's kingdom, God tells us that the love and reverence of Him is wisdom, and doing good and shunning evil means understanding. By reading the Word of God, prayer, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, greater wisdom and understanding is ours!

Psalms 70, 71; Acts 16:25-40; John 12:27-36a

Birthdays: Ann Doeblner, Victoria Huber, Tania Rampaul-Grant, Dawn Roberts-Hughes and Scott Tromans

Anniversaries: None

Friday, September 16

Psalm 73 *Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.* (vv.1-3)

It is easy to be angered by injustice and the prosperity of the wicked. Asaph says, "When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you" (vv.21-22). He almost lost sight of what it is all about. God will deal justly with the wicked. We do not need to be angered when they seem to be getting away with evil. Judgment is not ours. We are called to love our enemies and shun evil. Of course God loved Israel, the pure in heart, but the point is that He loves even the sinners. The point is the awesome grace of God. His salvation is for everyone who will repent of their sins and proclaim Him as Lord: "Whom have I in heaven but you? Earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (vv.25-26).

Esther 1:1-4, 10-19; Psalm 69; Acts 17:1-15; John 12:36b-43

Birthdays: Samara Superville and Jean Tromans

Anniversaries: None

Saturday, September 17

Psalm 75 *"When the earth and all its people quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm."* (v.3)

Just as the rising sun rends the dark of night, so does the light of God in our darkest hours. When we truly know God's character, His love, His works, and live according to His will, we can know no fear. Our hearts can be secure in the love and knowledge of our Lord, knowing that He is with us always. Good will come to those who follow His precepts and delight in His commands. Bad news, hatred, and even death will come our way, but nothing can separate a righteous man from the promises of God.

Esther 2:5-8, 15-23; Psalm 76; Acts 17:16-34; John 12:44-50

Birthdays: Terry Champagne, Debra Edouard, Linda Joy, Nicola-Marie Matthews and Charlton Wallace

Anniversaries: None

by Jenny Arrison

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