

Good News Daily

November 20-26, 2016

Sunday, November 20

Zechariah 9:9-16 Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (v.9 NIV)

When my children were little, they had a small nativity set made out of brightly colored rubber. The set even included some animals. Sometimes they would take the baby Jesus figure and put it on top of the donkey, pretending that Jesus was riding on the donkey. They would pretend with the other figures too like Mary and Joseph and the wise men as well.

I still have that set and am able to let my grandson now play with it. He is a little bit more rough and tough and sometimes crashes the people and animals together, spilling them onto the floor.

This reminds me though, of how God loves all of us despite the way we play or act. Jesus loves children the same as he loves adults and vice versa. He doesn't care if we are proper and "play" nicely or if we are rough and tumble. He loves each of us unconditionally.

I am so glad to know I am accepted no matter what. God allows for differences and even made us the way we are. Thank You, Lord, for loving me with no strings attached.

Psalm 118; 1 Peter 3:13-22; Matthew 21:1-13

Birthdays: Al Hood, Joan McBean, Jeniffer Reid and Melani Schwarz

Anniversaries: Andrew & Allison Grabin

Monday, November 21

Psalm 106:1-18 We have sinned, even as our ancestors did; we have done wrong and acted wickedly. (v.6)

I enjoy reading the Old Testament. I love all the stories about Abraham and Joseph and Moses. I am encouraged and amazed at the many miracles God did in the time of the Israelites. Miracles like sending manna, and saving the Israelites from the Egyptians. I hope I get to see a replay of these adventures in heaven someday!

Even in the midst of all the miracles, the Israelites had a hard time believing God and following Him. They often turned away with hardened hearts and refused to follow God completely. When I read this, I often think I would have been different. I think to myself, "Surely after all those miracles I would follow wholeheartedly!"

But then God reminds me of the times it is easy for me to walk in unbelief. He convicts me and brings me back to Himself. I am not very different than the Israelites. This is one more reason I am thankful for His Word which shows me the way and lights my path to the truth.

Zechariah 10:1-12; Galatians 6:1-10; Luke 18:15-30

Birthdays: Andrew Reid, Mary Rice and Sophia Solomon

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, November 22

1 Corinthians 3:10-23 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? (v.16)

True confession: I do not like to exercise. It's hard, sweaty work and takes time and energy that I would rather put into other areas. I am running out of excuses not to exercise and after today's reading; I am more convicted than ever.

There are several reasons I can think of that are a benefit of exercise. Yet, in my flesh and selfishness, I often times find I rebel. God is reminding me that He gave me my body and I am to do my best to keep it healthy and fit.

Someday in heaven I will have a new body. But for the time I have on this earth, it is my responsibility to care for this temple that God dwells in. Thank You, Lord, for a healthy body. Help me care for it the way you want me to.

Zechariah 11:4-17; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; Luke 18:31-43

Birthdays: Jerry Burakoff, Eugene Burrowes, John Cathcart, John Muehl, Brittany O'Connor, Sonia Persico, Lawrence Trager and Kayan Woodhouse

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, November 23

Psalm 119:145-176 My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises. (v.148)

Have you ever had a hard time falling asleep? How about waking up in the middle of the night? Generally, I have a hard time getting to sleep in the first place. Then it seems I often wake up in the middle of the night as well. It's easy to toss and turn and think of nothing but getting back to sleep.

One night as I was tossing and turning, God encouraged me to meditate on Him and His Word. I thought of the word Jesus and started naming some attributes that started with the letter j, then e, then s and u, and s again. So I thought of joy for the letter j, eternal life for the letter e, salvation for the letter s

and so on. Before I realized it, I was relaxed and falling back into sleepfulness again.

I'm grateful that God even cares about the sleep I get. The psalmist declares, "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).

Zechariah 12:1-10; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 19:1-10

Birthdays: Kimberly Hanson, Noel Osborne and Nichelle Singletary

Anniversaries: James & Alison Durning

Thursday, November 24

Ephesians 1:15-23 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.* (v.18)

Growing up, I was a very troubled teenager. I was addicted to drugs and alcohol, and even ran away from home. I never thought about God or changing my life. I just lived for myself and my own pleasure.

My grandmother was a believer in Jesus Christ. Even as a teenager I liked talking with her. Sometimes she would mention things about God, but mostly she said she prayed for me regularly. Later on, I found out she would pray this passage of Scripture over me in hopes of me finding salvation in Christ.

Because of her prayers, God's light shone into my dark ways of life, showing me a new path I could take. My heart and mind were opened to the ways of God. I am not sure I would have found my way to Christ had my grandmother not been so faithful in her prayers for me. But thankfully, she kept on praying until I found salvation in Jesus Christ.

Is there someone you know who is living in darkness and needs the light of Christ to open their eyes? You may be the one who prays them into the kingdom of God. Take time today to pray for someone you know who is without Christ in their life.

Zechariah 13:1-9; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Luke 19:11-27

Birthdays: Marlene Blake, Deacon Debra McLaughlin, Karen Sinclair and Michael Thomas

Anniversaries: John & Trecia Campbell and Mr. & Mrs. William McDaniel

Friday, November 25

Luke 19:28-40 *As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it.* (v.41)

Jesus was fully man and fully God. One of the things that comforts me most about Jesus is

knowing he had emotions. In this passage we see him weeping over Jerusalem.

Although Scripture doesn't tell us explicitly, I am sure Jesus laughed too. In the garden we see him struggle with going to the cross. So much so, that he sweat drops of blood. Sometimes we think of God and Jesus as not having emotions like we do. But in this passage, it brings comfort to know that Jesus did have human reactions. There isn't anything Jesus does not understand. This is one of the reasons God sent him—to know what it was like to be in human form.

May we be encouraged to know that no matter what we are going through, Jesus understands with his whole heart, mind, and soul.

Zechariah 14:1-11; Psalms 140, 142; Romans 15:7-13

Birthdays: None

Anniversaries: Regis & Stephanie Lolo

Saturday, November 26

Philippians 2:1-11 *Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.* (v.7)

These verses remind me of chapter 13 of John, when Jesus washes the disciples' feet. I am always amazed at how humble Jesus was to do this. He took the lowliest duty of a servant to show his love and care for the disciples.

I am also struck by the fact that Jesus knew even then that Judas was his betrayer. Yet Jesus still chose to wash the betrayer's feet. He did this to show he was a servant of all mankind—that he would suffer and die for all, not just the good people or good disciples.

That Jesus set aside his glory to be both human and a servant is beyond understanding. I am so thankful God humbled Himself on my behalf to save me from sin. Because Jesus was a servant and washed his disciple's feet, I too can humble myself and do good to others like he did. I thank You, Father God, for sending Your Son Jesus to be a living example of how to serve others.

Zechariah 14:12-21; Psalms 137, 144; Luke 19:41-48

Birthdays: Leslie Privat and Gina Wong

Anniversaries: Dennis & Alicia Kelley

by Pamela Newton

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

