

# Good News Daily

April 30-May 6, 2017

## Sunday, April 30

John 21:15-25 *Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. However, Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?"* (v.23 NIV)

This question from Jesus took me back to the time when my two daughters were growing up and were competing for my approval. There is so often rivalry among siblings, family members, and even close friends. Asking me questions to make sure I was not playing favorites or leaving one out was a constant quest on their behalf. These little girls could not be more different from one another, yet so very competitive. One loved fancy dresses and dancing while the other loved blue jeans and horses. Yet their competitive ways seemed never-ending.

It comforts me today to know Jesus needed to handle a similar situation, doing so with charity and clarity. I can just imagine him saying these words with a twinkle in his eye so Peter got the message, yet knowing of his love for both. He could correct these two very different men with such gentleness, yet making his point. He knew the gifting of each and the plans he had for them. I was not always so wise.

Daniel 4:1-18; Palms 148, 149, 150; 1 Peter 4:7-11

**Birthdays:** William Kieffhaber, Christopher McGowan and Winston Plummer

**Anniversaries:** Luis & Kimberly Sanchez

## Monday, May 1

Psalm 25 *O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.* (v.2 NRSV)

We often have no choice about the things we must wait for—job interview results, a medical diagnosis, and all too often an answer to a prayer request. However, we can decide how we wait. God gives us the free will to channel our hearts and minds in a way that will help our roots to grow deeper in Jesus or to giving in to our human nature by retreating into fear and worry. It is not wise to listen to an inner voice that says, "I'm just that way, I can't behave any different." That is an enemy within. We can allow him to bring defeat into our spiritual life or we can make a better choice, knowing our beliefs can lead to a peaceful action.

I am finding these pauses in my life can be helpful times to undergo rigorous self-examination so I can stop being a victim of my past and believe God can give me a better future. I am in God's waiting room right now and am finding these pauses are helping me draw closer to my Beloved while trusting Him more.

Daniel 4:19-27; 1 John 3:19—4:6; Luke 4:14-30

**Birthdays:** Sivandia Augustin, Joe Cortese and Bradley Rose

**Anniversaries:** Ross & Donalyn Hislop

## Tuesday, May 2

Psalm 26 *Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.* (v.2 NIV)

Have you ever had the Lord examine your heart and mind? No one knows the true heart like Jesus. Many years ago my husband brought home for dinner a fellow attorney who was very distraught, having been asked for a divorce after only 6 months of marriage. We thought we would cheer him up and let him know we cared. After dinner, I leaned over to him, with a cigarette in one hand and bourbon and water in the other, and said, "What you need to do is go to church."

Instantly, the Holy Spirit came upon me revealing my hypocrisy and many other sins. I also immediately knew that I had become like the parents I had judged years before. I left the room to be by myself and allow the examination to continue, which it did for several hours. God truly examined my heart and mind and it wasn't pretty. I did agree with his assessment and my life turned around from that night. That was the first of several; but none as deep as that time.

Sometimes we need to ask for this humbling of our spirit, but there are times God will show up without being invited.

Daniel 4:28-37; Psalm 28; 1 John 4:7-21; Luke 4:31-37

**Birthdays:** Megan Mandell and Lucas Mendiola

**Anniversaries:** None

## Wednesday, May 3

Luke 4:38-44 *At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.* (v.42)

Are you like me? Using productivity and popularity to obtain self-worth? Do you get an adrenaline high when you can scratch off everything on your daily "to do" list? I don't believe Jesus was rejoicing inwardly about their wanting him to remain with them: "Oh they like me I think I will stay longer." He made time to be alone with his Father important and often, so he could hear what his Father wanted him to do next. I can't imagine Jesus making up a daily "to do" list. He was able, therefore, to be more flexible with greater peace along the way. After all, he was on his Father's time table, not his. He simply listened to his Father. What an example for us to follow.

I have stop making lists, except for grocers and, instead, I make every effort to let the Lord lead me. I am finding that what needs to be accomplished, most often does. Not surprising, my days are more peaceful. I care less about what others think of me as I can feel Jesus being pleased with my efforts to follow him more closely.

Daniel 5:1-12; Psalm 38; 1 John 5:1-12

**Birthdays:** Andre Edwards, Bill Marks and Kevin McGill

**Anniversaries:** None

#### **Thursday, May 4**

Psalm 37:1-18 *Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong.* (v.1)

This psalm speaks to the question people sometimes raise: "Why do evil people prosper?" From my perspective, the ones I have seen clearly do not—and according to God's Word, He agrees (v.2). My husband had a father who was clearly an evil man and made life miserable for his family and ours. So I did much fretting when I discovered he had inappropriately touched our youngest daughter as well as other family members. There continued much anguish in the family because he continued to deny any wrong doing. Since I believe God would not tell us to do something without telling us how, I sought His help. God led me to this verse and I immersed myself in the study of this whole chapter. I learned what it meant to trust, to delight, and to commit. Applying these words enabled me to trust God with peace rather than with anxiety. This, in time, led to forgiveness—so important to my own relationship with my *Abba*.

He ended his life filled with bitterness and much pain that he chose not to endure.

Daniel 5:13-30; 1 John 5:13-21; Luke 5:1-11

**Birthdays:** Adina Hudson and Marjorie Rice

**Anniversaries:** None

#### **Friday, May 5**

2 John 1-13 *And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.* (v.6)

When seeking God in prayer, I sometimes notice that His voice is not the loudest voice in my head. Others thoughts all too often interfere and prevent me from hearing Him. Instead, I might hear, "Tell this person you have been praying for her. There you go trying to sound spiritual again." I seem to have a committee in my head with different names, depending on their agenda. I have named them so when I am intent on getting rid of them I can escort them out of the door of my mind. There is The Critic, The Stupid Kid, and The Rescuer, to name a few. If you have these committee members in your head, don't be discouraged—it is only a sign you are human.

These voices do not want us to "walk in love" and will try very hard to distract us and keep us from obeying the Golden Law of Love. But in order to walk in love, my experience is that I must walk with God. Thus the need to keep my mind set on Him and not on me. Then I can get filled with Him and transfer what I have received to others along the way.

Daniel 6:1-15; Psalm 105:1-22; Luke 5:12-26

**Birthdays:** Raphael Alvarez, David Nachtwey, Kadeem Rose and Richard Spillers

**Anniversaries:** Jerry & Barbara Sehi and Anthony & Andrea Trotman

#### **Saturday, May 6**

Luke 5:27-39 *But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"* (v.30)

Jesus scandalized the religious leaders because he was challenging their social values and, as we would say today, he was not politically correct. He ignored their boundaries and hierarchies, which was so important to their culture. Anyone transgressing these customs consistently would become an enemy of that culture. It has been said that Jesus got himself killed because of the way he ate.

As one who has traveled internationally for several years, I can relate to this. I quickly became aware that, in whatever country I was in, I had better follow the customs if I wanted to be heard. While in Communist Russia, our group was told we were being treated to a special breed of meat. It became obvious they were attempting to show honor to us. We would dishonor them by refusing to eat whatever was served. After poking around on my plate, I saw it was grizzly and very tough. It was horrible, but I got through one piece, felt sick, put the reminder in my napkin. In privacy, our group shared our secret way of feigning our appreciation for the meal. We thought we had obeyed the custom; but after returning to our hotel, our doors were locked behind us and the promised evening's entertainment was canceled.

Daniel 6:16-28; Psalms 30, 32; 3 John 1-15

**Birthdays:** Brent O'Conner, Renata Neidhardt-Lerman and Aliyah Rodriguez

**Anniversaries:** None

**by Nancy Ross**

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