

Good News Daily

May 14-20, 2017

Sunday, May 14

Psalm 29 *The LORD will bless His people with peace.* (v.11b NASB)

I was irritated and cranky this morning. Nothing specific caused it. I had no patience. I snapped at people. Everything and everyone irked me and I was tired of their selfish blasé attitudes. I was not pleasant to be around. I had a bad attitude just like the people around me. Where was my joy?

I realized I had not spent time with the Lord in several days. My mornings had been so busy that I forgot. And now, I (and the innocent people around me) was paying the price for it.

When I spend time with the Lord, my outlook is different. I find my joy in the Lord. When my mind and heart are focused on Him and I lift my prayers to the Lord, I receive peace. My focus goes away from the irritating, first world selfish problems that arise and onto my Lord and Savior. He gives me the peace that only God can bless His people with. I feel calm and ready to face the day with joy and share grace and patience when needed.

Joshua 17:14-18; Psalm 24; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; Matthew 7:7-14

Birthdays: Jacob Mwangi Mungai, Taisha O'Conner and Hannah Thompson

Anniversaries: Clint & Beverley Corbin

Monday, May 15

Joshua 18:1-10 *So Joshua said to the sons of Israel, "How long will you put off entering, to take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers has given you?"* (v.3)

Danny was a sweetheart of a guy who worked with my husband 15 years ago down south. As the weight of an unexpected divorce was crushing his friend, my husband shared his faith with him and the hope that a life walking with Christ provides. It wasn't completely unfamiliar to Danny, he just hadn't "entered the land which the Lord had given him."

Last week we received a message from Danny thanking us for leading him back to the Lord. "Ever since you got me focusing on God again, my life has gone way beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you for taking the time to get my spiritual life back on track!"

There isn't a better message to receive! To God be the glory!

Father, show me folks in my life who need to be reminded to take possession of the land You have provided for them and not just live outside of it. Show me how to lovingly and gently share Your good news with them so they can have a life that goes beyond their wildest dreams.

Psalms 56, 57, 58; Colossians 3:18—4:18; Luke 7:36-50

Birthdays: Jessica Millar and Santiago Swann

Anniversaries: Mike & Elise Roy

Tuesday, May 16

Luke 8:1-15 *"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants."* (vv.5-7 NIV)

I feel like the farmer. I have been scattering seeds in one particular place for a while now. I have been trying to water the soil and take care of the seeds. I have great affection for the soil where I have planted the seeds. I really want to see the seeds grow and flourish in the soil and yield a crop a hundred times more than I sowed.

I am afraid of predators, like the birds that would whisk the seeds away before they took root, or rocks in the soil that would stymie growth by preventing moisture and food from getting in, or thorny influences that choke out the seeds. I decided to pray about it. I ask the Lord to protect the seeds in the soil and nurture them. I pray that like a plant longs to be in the sun and nurtured by food and water these folks would long to grow closer to the Lord.

Joshua 20:1-9; Psalms 61, 62; Romans 12:1-21

Birthdays: Andrea Braynon, Siliska Corbin, Olivia Lolo, Craig Neita, Keith Rodriguez and Anthony Solomon

Anniversaries: None

Wednesday, May 17

Joshua 21:43-45, 22:1-6 *Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.* (v.45)

God has made so many promises to us. He will always be with us. He will give us peace like no other. He will provide comfort and shelter and meet our needs. He can heal us and our relationships according to His will. He is in control. He can redeem any situation. He will sit in judgment; we are not to. He will take revenge, not us. He forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. These are only a few.

As humans, perhaps we have not kept the promises we have made or we have had others break their promises to us. It is difficult to believe that God keeps his promise *no matter what*. We are humans—sinful and imperfect. God is good and just and perfect. He is incapable of breaking His promises. We just needed Joshua to remind us of that.

Lord, it's hard for us to believe that You will keep Your promises. Forgive us for our lack of trust. Thank You for Joshua's reminder that when we struggle with disbelief You are still holy and faithful and will never fail us.

Psalm 72; Romans 13:1-14; Luke 8:16-25

Birthdays: Dauni Lee James Warner

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, May 18

Luke 8:26-39 *"Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.* (v.39 NASB)

Jesus told the demonic man to go and tell the people in his village about his healing. Surely Jesus knew there were people in the man's village that needed to hear about the healing. What has Jesus done for you lately? Has he healed you of something, given you strength to endure tough times? God answers our prayers daily. There are folks who desperately need to hear that.

I think I find it easier to write about those things Jesus has done for me as opposed to sharing them with another person. Why? Am I afraid of what people think? Afraid of being rejected or sounding preachy? I think I should start asking God to nudge me when there is something I need to share.

Lord, thank You for the answered prayers and mini miracles You do in my life daily. Open my eyes and ears to know when You want me to share something and who I should share it with. I want to only glorify You. I pray also that You would go before me and prepare the hearer to be open to my words.

Joshua 22:7-20; Psalms 70, 71; Romans 14:1-12

Birthdays: Dwight Douglas

Anniversaries: Bancroft & Diedre Howden

Friday, May 19

Luke 8:40-56 *Now they were all weeping and lamenting for her; but He said, "Stop weeping, for she has not died, but is asleep."* (v.52)

How many times have I thought a situation was doomed with no way to fix it? Jesus knew the young girl had not died but was just asleep. I am grateful that God sees things differently than we do. He sees across time and space and in His providence He can redeem impossible situations. When we ask Him, He can make things work out better than we can imagine.

I just celebrated my 25th wedding anniversary. Woo-hoo! Twenty five years is a long time. They weren't all good years. Most years were wonderful but there were one or two when neither of us thought we would make it to the next one. Satan would have liked nothing more than for us to decide our relationship was dead and to bury it. But Jesus knew it was just dormant. Through his divine intervention and some wise counselors and hard work, it was healed. Like I said, it's better than we can imagine. To God be the glory!

Joshua 22:21-34; Psalm 106:1-18; Romans 14:13-23

Birthdays: Kyia Rutherford and George Simpson

Anniversaries: None

Saturday, May 20

Joshua 23:1-16 *"But you are to cling to the LORD, your God, as you have done to this day."* (v.8)

Adalee was a brown stuffed teddy bear missing one eye and half the fur worn away. I loved Adalee. It was my security blanket. When I was sad or cranky or falling asleep, I wanted Adalee with me. My daughter had Sophie, the stuffed pink doll. My son had Biscuit, a soft stuffed Dalmatian dog head whose body was a blanket.

Most kids have something—a blanket, doll, stuffed animal—something they can cuddle with and call their own. They are our comforters. Then we get older and are told we need to get rid of our security "blankets". Sometimes that isn't easy for kids, they hold on tightly to them, cling to them, and refuse to give them up.

God is our security blanket, our refuge, our comforter in times of trials. Why shouldn't we cling to Him? Some days we may need to cling to Him like a life saver. Other times we just need to know He is close by. I am not ashamed to say God is my salvation, my security, and I cling to Him every day.

Psalms 75, 76; Romans 15:1-13; Luke 9:1-17

Birthdays: Amanda Ciocca

Anniversaries: Hopelyn Gray-Haughton and Allan Haughton

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