

Good News Daily

May 21-27, 2017

Sunday, May 21

Matthew 13:24-34a *He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."* (vv.31-32 NIV)

Jesus was teaching us that small beginnings can grow and produce good results when we trust in him. His words challenge me to keep my eyes open for opportunities to plant seeds of goodness and joy every day.

While grocery shopping, lightning knocked out all the power. Darkness is not a place I like to be. As fear crept up my spine, I prayed; the fear and loneliness subsided.

When the power was restored, my eyes focused on an elderly gentleman who was frantically searching for an item while clutching a list. I offered to help, but he refused thanking me graciously. I insisted it wasn't a bother as I have needed and asked for help on numerous occasions. Multiple blessings were created by locating that item together.

To give or receive a blessing requires a transaction created by God. I noticed the gentleman, we acknowledged each other, trust was built, and Jesus blessed the transaction with humor, appreciation, and thanksgiving.

Joshua 24:1-28; Psalms 93, 96; 1 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Birthdays: Jeffrey Lawson, Michelle Laryea, Sharon Martin and Emmet Richards-Waite

Anniversaries: None

Monday, May 22

James 1:1-15 *"If any of you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it."* (v.5 The Message)

What that means to me is to ask God how He sees me, what He wants me to know, and what He wants me to do when situations arise. I have discovered that my own perspective is only mine. God's perspective is divine.

One day in prayer, God took me back to a childhood memory of shame through verbal comments. I had walked through forgiveness there on several occasions and asked why He took me there. He said, "Ask me." So, I did. Hearing His perspective was something I had never thought or imagined before. It was so amazing and so life giving. That day, I learned that I need His perspective to help shine light on the path He has for me for good.

Frankly, I admit that I am not always willing to hear God's perspective first. Yet, I know the freedom

and peace that comes from making this choice and I encourage others to just try and see.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 80; Luke 9:18-27

Birthdays: Grace Wong

Anniversaries: Gordon & Laura Chuck

Tuesday, May 23

James 1:16-27 *"Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear."* (vv.19-20 The Message)

How many times have we done exactly what James cautions us not to do? Talking too much and listening too little tells others our ideas are more important than theirs. That behavior breeds feelings of neglect or offense and embarrassment. When anger is added to the equation, physical wounding will reinforce the consequence.

During healing prayer sessions, I have seen firsthand the consequences of this sinful behavior. Supplicants present with a need to control, to have their voices heard, to be perfect, to limit their goals, to expect failure coupled with low self-esteem. They are filled with shame. The power and love of God can break these chains, false judgments against them, and inner vows made.

Feeling blessed as an expectant grandmother, James' words are a guiding light to me. How can I prevent the creation of this shame and these false beliefs? How can I encourage this miracle to build joy and capacity to give and receive what God has planned for them?

Deuteronomy 8:11-20; Psalm 78:1-39; Luke 11:1-13

Birthdays: Craig Francis and Kimberly Wilbanks

Anniversaries: Ben & Alejandra Stoddart

Wednesday, May 24

James 5:13-18 *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.* (v.15 NIV)

The faith of people praying for our circumstance, not *our* faith, heals. This news is great assurance to me because I know that when a circumstance is big, my faith is often small. No matter the circumstances, it is the big faith of people praying that matters. And, we know all prayer is subject to God's will.

I recall being on a prayer team where the supplicant's circumstance was huge—terminal brain cancer that had not responded to surgery. While awaiting physician recommendations for the next step, he asked for prayer. He was angry with God. After telling his story, he told us to just go ahead and pray, because he had no confidence. We prayed knowing our faith in God is bigger than any circumstance. In our flesh, we could do nothing. God healed by revealing a deep hurt of shame, "not good enough," and striving for attention that was created when this person was a small

child. Filled with the love and the power of God, chains of bondage were cut free. We all left that day with renewed hope in the power and love of God.

Leviticus 26:27-42; Psalm 119:97-120; Luke 12:22-31

Birthdays: Hopelyn Gray-Haughton, Van Hulmes, Gene McLymont, Ben Stoddart and Ashley Vaz

Anniversaries: Phillip & Heather Swann

Thursday, May 25

Matthew 28:16-20 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (vv.19-20)

Jesus' words affirm the reality of the Trinity which reminds us of the three-in-one nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God the Father is *Creator*. He created me in His own image (Genesis 1:27) and "saw all that he had made, and it was very good" (Genesis 1:31) makes me know I was created perfectly and am loved and worthy. He delights in relationship with His creation.

God the Son is *Redeemer*. Redemption means to rescue from sin with a ransom. Jesus established a new covenant with us, showed us God with skin on as he healed in mind, body, spirit, and soul. Then, he took on our sins on the Cross as a perfect sacrificial lamb out of great love. Because our Redeemer lives, there is always a way to have no separation from God.

God the *Holy Spirit*: "the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things, and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). Here is a 24/7 friend that guides, teaches, convicts, solves amazing problems, and comforts. He helps us live from "inside out" through Holy Spirit power instead of responding to external issues first.

God is a beautiful mystery. I am thankful we are on this journey together and pray for more living from the "inside out" for each of us.

Ezekiel 1:1-14, 24-28b; Psalms 8, 47; Hebrews 2:5-18

Birthdays: Marlyn Ally and Jim Rugg

Anniversaries: Wesley & Marcia Bonnitto

Friday, May 26

Hebrews 4:14—5:6 *"Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. We don't have a priest who is out of touch with our reality. He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all—all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is ready to give. Take the mercy, accept the help."* (vv.14-16 The Message)

"Walk right up" means we come with boldness and confidence. Don't be shy. If you don't think you deserve to ask, think again. If the problem seems too big, think again. God's mercy and help are available because Jesus is always available, always interceding,

and promises us God's forgiveness regardless of the sin.

A family member called me, asked for prayer, and told me his employer was moving him into a very different division with new responsibilities, boss, co-workers, and salary. Just four years from retirement, this news was devastating. He felt hopeless, unloved, and disconnected. I started to give him false reassurance. God stopped me and said, "Do you trust me to take care of this mess?" So, we did. He showered both of us with His reassurance and love; He promised to take charge of this issue if we followed Him.

The next day, my family member began to accept the idea of the new role. The day after that, God had done the impossible. His employer apologized for the whole situation and asked if he was willing to stay in his current position.

Ezekiel 1:28—3:3; Psalms 85, 86; Luke 9:28-36

Birthdays: Adam Ashterman, Lloyd Mc Bean, Maureen Roach, Myrtle Shepherd, Everton Sibblis and Andrew Valere

Anniversaries: None

Saturday, May 27

Hebrews 5:7-14 *Once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.* (v.9 NIV)

Eternal salvation frees us from any guilt/shame label because of our sin, sets aside judgment, and gives us underserved membership in God's family. But if our image of God is distorted, there are barriers to maturity, transformation, and wholeness.

Because our image of God can be distorted by significant others in our life, plus hurts, disappointments, and losses, people need to know who God is if they are going to trust Him for help. That is why in healing prayer, one of the first questions we ask supplicants is, "How did you and the Lord get to know each other?"

I remember a woman who came seeking freedom from making poor choices in her personal relationships, increasing anxieties regarding work situations, a pattern of changing jobs and friends, and inability to hear God. Before she had arrived, God had revealed to us the name He had given her at birth: *Hannah*. While praying, a team member spoke blessings over "Hannah". When she heard this name, she asked us how we knew that information.

When she understood that God was blessing her through us, she was doubly blessed. Hannah means favor/grace. God's name for her renewed her hope in the living Christ.

Ezekiel 3:4-17; Psalms 87, 90; Luke 9:37-50

Birthdays: Taylor Corris, Barbara Sehi and Edith Wild

Anniversaries: Anita Lowe, Everton & Alicia Sibblis and Jeffery & Jill Thompson

by Jane Shinn

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