

Good News Daily

Deuteronomy 11:13-19; Psalm 52; 2 Corinthians 5:11—6:2;
Luke 17:1-10

June 4-10, 2017

Sunday, June 4

Psalm 118 *The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.* (vv.22-23 NKJV)

I proudly display the American flag in front of my home—a symbol of pride and unity; a reminder of freedom.

For many years a gold cross adorned my neck—a reminder Jesus is always with me. Now, I enhance my Sunday outfit with one of my decorative crosses.

My neighbor displays two seven-inch solar powered crosses on his lawn. They shine bright in the darkness. One day he called to me, asking if I would like his extra cross. I hesitated before saying yes and allowing him to place it in my flowerbed. Now, I must ask myself why I hesitated. The cross, a symbol of my salvation—am I ashamed to let the world know I'm a Christian? I didn't hesitate to show the world I'm an American when I hung the flag. Perhaps I'm not unlike Peter who denied Jesus three times despite following and loving him.

Now, I watch the flag flying throughout the day and admire the cross shining at night. One day, God will reject those who reject Jesus.

Isaiah 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-13; John 14:21-29

Birthdays: Zack Carneiro, Brittany Fleming and Berjuhi Masters

Anniversaries: Deborah Cainto and Janet & Clement Findlay

Monday, June 5

Psalm 41 *The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; you will sustain him on his sickbed.* (vv.2-3)

I labeled the Mason jar "Showers of Blessings" and cut strips of colored paper to write the blessings I received each day. This was the second year of going through surgeries and painful recoveries and I needed to remind myself how the godly suffer as well as receive God's blessings. No matter how small the blessing—a phone call, card, or flower blooming in the yard—I wrote it down. They were signs of God's goodness. The jar quickly became colorful with blessings.

Others write in journals or on calendars to count their blessings. My mom kept a daily logbook of each event. I can look at her book so many years later and see exactly how many times in a month I phoned and visited. Despite the era being before the convenience of today's technology, I should have done better.

Perhaps I should not only count the blessings I receive, but blessings I bestow on others. Each blessing given and received is from God: "And he will be blessed on the earth" (v.2).

Birthdays: Teagan Fiore, Frances Hart, Marie Shipe and Michael Williams

Anniversaries: None

Tuesday, June 6

Deuteronomy 12:1-12 *These are the statutes and judgment which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth.*" (v.1)

Both sides of my paternal ancestors sailed the vast seas from Great Britain to the New World of America in the 1600's. When curiosity lead me to know my family, I prepared myself for the bad along with the good. I found them settled in Yorktown, Virginia and Wethersfield, Connecticut. Although wealthy, respected business, land, and slave owners, the family fortunes would be lost to the Revolutionary War. However, their first homes remain standing to this day.

I can't help wondering if my ancestors felt like the Israelites who crossed the Jordan in order to enter the Promised Land. Surely they felt the same anxieties of the unknown, fear of conquering inhabitants, and questions about the establishment of a new culture. Although the Israelites and the early settlers of America came from strong religious backgrounds, all would need to be reminded of God's mighty acts, His covenant, and His commands.

God demands the same from us today. We must demonstrate our love and faith by obedience of His laws. In return, God promises abundant blessings if we live responsibly.

Psalm 45; 2 Corinthians 6:3—7:1; Luke 17:11-19

Birthdays: Valarie Bailey, Jean Gaudard, Chris Gould and Maulan Wong

Anniversaries: Merline Antoine-Archer & Steven Archer and Kevin & Gloria Rose

Wednesday, June 7

Deuteronomy 13:1-11 *"You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him."* (v.4)

Good and evil. Remember the proverbial angel on the right shoulder and devil on the left? My winged angel is adorned in glowing white, while my horned devil wears red and a jeer on its face.

I placed school supplies, including ten packs of folders, in the basket for the upcoming back-to-school church collection. Before I left the store I checked the receipt which is my habit. I was charged for eleven folders, not ten, and I promptly advised the clerk. I didn't recount them and it nagged at me. Arriving home I popped the trunk and removed the folders. I counted *eleven* packs. "No, it can't be," I muttered to myself as I recounted. God's Eighth Commandment, "You shall not

steal," (Exodus 20:15) clashed with the one on my left shoulder:

"It's only a dollar," the evil one shouted."

"Thou shall not steal," whispered the winged one.

"It would cost you more in gas than it's worth."

"Thou shall not steal."

The next morning, I handed the clerk a dollar along with my apology.

Psalm 119:49-72; 2 Corinthians 7:2-16; Luke 17:20-37

Birthdays: Ethan Budhu, Racquel Husbands, John Kaczor and Martin Williams

Anniversaries: None

Thursday, June 8

Luke 18:1-8 *"There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'"* (vv.2-3)

Looking for something to amuse myself, I wandered into the Museum of Seminole County History. This twenty-two room structure was built in 1926 as an "old folk's home". Before Social Security existed there was a need for a place the elderly poor without family could live and be cared for. In both the Old and New Testaments, it is insisted widows and orphans be taken care of. Exodus 22:22-24 tells us of God's concern for them. Isaiah 1:17 says to defend the fatherless and plead for the widow, while 1 Timothy 5 insists families take care of them.

President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act in 1935. Prior to that, indigent people of all ages were sent to the "poor house" to work and live in squalor. This particular "old folk's home" provided individual rooms, chores, and activities. Although segregated for meals, the residents were well treated. I wonder if a widow was the advocate for the establishment of this home.

Should we be any less concerned for the widow and orphan than the Lord?

Deuteronomy 16:18-20, 17:14-20; Psalm 50; 2 Corinthians 8:1-16

Birthdays: Raymond Cunningham, Donovan Hixon, Bancroft Howden and Linda Zeferetti

Anniversaries: Howard & Beulah Francis and Renee B-Aleis & Anthony Solomon

Friday, June 9

Luke 18:9-14 *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector."* (vv.9-10)

Lord, give *me* wisdom. Open *my* mind so I can understand and remember Your words. Fill *me* with Your Holy Spirit. Give *me* compassion for others. Forgive *me* my sins.

Not a bad prayer in itself, but as I prayed I suddenly realized how many times I used the word *me*. I wonder how many times I've prayed this prayer. You might ask, "What's wrong with it? It sounds all right to me." Well, it's all about *me*.

Matthew 6:9 says, "In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...'" God

takes care of us. God forgives us. God protects us. Jesus, who taught us to pray, gives us a prayer about God, not us.

Praying for yourself is appropriate; however, next time you're in your quiet place praying, take time to listen to your own prayer. Is it all about *me*?

Who do you pray like—the Pharisee or the tax collector?

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalms 40, 54; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Birthdays: Serline Charles, Jonathan Roy, Anthony Simon and Eugene Simon

Anniversaries: Jean & David D'Costa, Frank & Connie Desko and Rev. John & Faith Nganga

Saturday, June 10

Luke 18:15-30 *Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."* (vv.15-16)

I watched the little children rush to the front of the church with their colorful backpacks and realized how I longed for the days of getting children ready for back-to-school. The pastor said *we must world-proof the children* as he performed the brief ceremony of the "Blessing of the Backpacks." As I look back on this day I wonder if I do enough for God's children.

I believe there are no coincidences; God places people in our paths for His purpose. Knowing I'm unable to perform some charitable acts which include children, I've prayed for a worthwhile activity. Since I teach beginning sewing and have a small sewing business, it makes sense God would answer my prayer at the fabric store where I met two women. The coordinator of *Ryan's Case for Smiles in Orlando* was placing a poster on the bulletin board. The non-profit charity makes bright, whimsical pillowcases for each child who is admitted to several children's hospitals in the area. They were praying for volunteers to make pillowcases.

God answered our prayers when He crossed our paths.

Deuteronomy 29:2-15; Psalm 55; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Birthdays: Nefertari Augustin, Michael Boccia, Jr., Latasha Bonnitto, Cierra Braaf, Rebecca Gould, Roseanne Rugg and Kathy Steinbauer

Anniversaries: None

by Shirley J. Conley

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