

Good News Daily

November 5-11, 2017

Sunday, November 5

Nehemiah 5:1-19 *But because I feared God, I did not act that way.* (v.15c NLT)

Nehemiah was courageous and concerned about others in a self-centered culture bent on amassing fortunes. He was obedient to God in deed as well as word. God made the difference to Nehemiah, and he gave God credit for his character. For how many parts of our lives can we give God the credit—the glory?

We can say, "Because of God..." I awaken to the sunrise, end my day with the setting sun, hear songs of birds—enjoy creation. Can we also, like Nehemiah, make Father God our role model? Can we say, "because of God I..." am honest, honorable, loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, faithful, gentle and self-controlled? Have I let God mold and shape me in the image of Jesus, or am I won over by the culture around me? In the evening, can we take a self-inventory asking, "What did I do or not do, say or not say, today "because of God"?"

Psalms 24, 29; Acts 20:7-12; Luke 12:22-31

Birthdays: Karen Allen, Brandon Bonnitto, Joannah Bwomezi, Frank D'Angelo, Jean Gaudard, Jr. and Donalyn Hislop

Anniversaries: None

Monday, November 6

Psalms 56 *But when I am afraid I will put my trust in you.* (v.3)

Reading the newspaper, watching TV, or listening to radio, we can't escape the tumult of violence erupting around us. Fear, our natural reaction, may readily arise from deep within. Our daily lives often offer up fearful crises—balancing the checkbook, raising children, job layoffs, relational challenges. For me, it can be a moment by moment decision that "I will put my trust in you (O, Lord)." Without that decision, I am blinded by the fear inducing assaults of daily life. When I repeat out loud the words, "when I am afraid I will put my trust in you," I remember I am not alone. I have a wise, powerful, loving Father whose Son died for me, and whose Spirit is within me. Like Hagar I can say, "You are the God who sees me" (Genesis 16:13).

Nehemiah 6:1-19; Psalms 57, 58; Revelation 10:1-11;
Matthew 13:36-43

Birthdays: Winston Cannile, Jayden Hart, Linda Reynolds, Rev. Michael Sahdev and Malcolm Weekes

Anniversaries: Humphrey & Cynthia Braaf and Saidie Lawrence & Earl Bourne

Tuesday, November 7

Nehemiah 12:27-31a, 42b-47 *"I led the leaders of Judah to the top of the wall and organized two large choirs to give thanks. The women and children also participated in the celebration, and the joy of the people of Jerusalem could be heard far away."* (vv.31a, 43b)

People were flooding back from exile. Nehemiah was rebuilding Jerusalem's wall. Jerusalem was being resettled. I picture the leaders atop the wall under construction, the women and children gathered, all singing for the joy of coming home to Jerusalem; the home for many hearts, for many years. At least for a season, a people finally in harmony with their land, each other, and their God. Their joy "could be heard far away." They broadcasted unity, obedience, and faith in God.

Can we, too, stand on our walls, give thanks in unity and be heard far away praising? Can we stand on our walls making choices in our lives that model our faith? Perhaps, action really does speak louder than words! Our most powerful witness is in the way we live our lives.

Psalms 61, 62; Revelation 11:1-19; Matthew 13:44-52

Birthdays: Charles Bethel, Wesley Bonnitto, Pamela D'Aguilar, Shane Marsh, Sharon Rose and Daniel Walford

Anniversaries: John & Gloria Bates and Eric & Melani Taylor

Wednesday, November 8

Matthew 13:53-58 *"And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief."* (v.58)

Jesus went home to Nazareth. Many there could not see beyond the child he once was or the familiarity of his family still living ordinary lives in Nazareth. They didn't see the God who came down to live among us. They heard him teach, were amazed at his wisdom. But they doubted: "...they refused to believe in him" (v.57b). So, "He did only a few miracles." The people of Jesus' hometown were blind to the truth that the Messiah had indeed come. His neighbors knew him as a man, but that was all!

How well do I know him, trust in him, and follow him? Am I a neighbor, observing and critiquing or a believer seeing, loving, obeying, receiving, and following?

Nehemiah 13:4-22; Psalm 72; Revelation 12:1-12

Birthdays: Beau Dussuau and Winsome Henry

Anniversaries: Terry & Errol Champagne

Thursday, November 9

Ezra 7:1-26 *"Be careful to provide whatever the God of heaven demands for his Temple, for why should we risk bringing God's anger...?"* (v.23)

Then the temple was a building in Jerusalem. Today, "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?" (1 Corinthians 6:19). This permission/order to "provide" was made by the king to Ezra, "a scribe well versed in the Law of Moses" (v.6a).

Much of the Law of Moses discusses honor, truth, integrity, and respect. What if we used it as a guide for care of our bodies and souls—the temple of the Holy Spirit—as individuals and collectively as the Church, the Body of Christ? For "why should we risk bringing God's anger?" What if we recognized the truth and necessity of respecting and honoring the temple God declares us to be? What might we change? What blessings might result?

Psalms 70, 71; Revelation 14:1-13; Matthew 14:1-12

Birthdays: Deanna Douglas, Byron Guy and Pansy Plummer

Anniversaries: None

Friday, November 10

Psalm 69 *O, God, you know how foolish I am; my sins cannot be hidden from you. Don't let those who trust in you be ashamed because of me, O Sovereign LORD of Heaven's Armies.* (vv.5-6a)

David, king of Israel—but with a long history of giving in to his desires and betraying the Law of Moses. David, so very human—yet God chose his line as the lineage of Jesus. Many of the psalms reveal David's heartbreak when he catches himself in sin—a betrayal of his Heavenly Father. David recognized the influence he had as leader, as an example to others.

David was chosen. We, too, are God's chosen people. Chosen...not last chosen for the soccer team or as a last-minute fill-in at a dinner party...but chosen by God the Father. What foolish choices of mine "cannot be hidden" from God or might lead to mistakes or embarrassment for others and betray my responsibility as one of God's chosen? As David begs for rescue from his own foolish choices, so can we.

Ezra 7:27-28, 8:21-36; Revelation 15:1-8; Matthew 14:13-

21

Birthdays: Apolonia Browne, Emily Legare, Trevor Osborne and Patrick Saint Fleur

Anniversaries: Darryl & Laurie Tucker

Saturday, November 11

Revelation 17:1-14 *"And his called and chosen and faithful ones will be with him."* (v.14b)

It's a frightening scene: a great prostitute is defiling the land. People "who belong to this world" will be deceived. God's called, chosen, faithful ones will be with Him. How will we choose? Are we willing to prepare our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls to be faithful? Will we stop and listen for God's call on our lives? Listen for His plan? Resist the world's message to "do it my way"? Will we resist the encouragement we see everywhere, including store window displays, to pursue the belief that "it's about me" and instead embrace the message of the song, "It's all about you, Jesus"? And once we accept the call, will we be faithful?

Ezra 9:1-15; Psalms 75, 76; Matthew 14:22-36

Birthdays: Nancy Clarke, Tatiana McDonald and Christabelle McKay

Anniversaries: Mr. & Mrs. Edward Corbin

by Barbara Maybee

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