

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume XVIII**

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**Number 23**

### **Sunday, June 10**

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 *I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on men; God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them...* (vv.1-2a NIV)

When I read this passage in Ecclesiastes, I ponder about my level of contentment with the wealth I have accumulated. A statement has been attributed to a Romanian church leader who spent time in the West in which he said, “95% of believers who face the test of persecution pass it; 95% who face the test of prosperity fail it.”

The lesson I’m hearing is that no amount of money is going to make me satisfied or happy. Rich or poor, if I’m not connected with God, then there will be no contentment. So, if life is a struggle, I can still celebrate all the many blessings that I have received by sight and what I will receive by faith. God is my source of enjoyment and it is by His grace that he enables me to be aware of my many blessings.

Psalms 24, 29; Acts 10:9-23; Luke 12:32-40

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico The Most Revd Francisco Moreno Presiding Bishop of La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico & Bishop of Northern Mexico

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* All Saints Church, Morton, The Rev. Matthew Dallman, Priest in Charge; Masumbwe Parish, Tanzania, Masumbwe; The Cathedral Church of Christ The Redeemer, Arequipa, Peru, Rev'd Juan Marcos Ayala, Priest; Jeffrey F. Kozuszek, Centralia; Beth H. Maynard, Champaign, ordination to the Priesthood; Pray for St. Michael’s Conference Staff and Participants.

### **Monday, June 11**

Matthew 15:21-28 *Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”* (v.23)

Honestly, this is not my favorite Jesus story. His attitude toward the Canaanite woman almost seems racist: “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” I had to read, necessarily, several commentaries to get a better understanding of the context of Christ’s ministry and what was transpiring at this time.

So here is my “take-away.” Faith is not an “easiest road to travel.” There are starts and stops and stumbling blocks. As the Canaanite woman demonstrated, persistence is required. I am discouraged when my requests are not answered in *my*

*time.* God has a plan for me, in His time. In faith, I cry out to God. My prayers are heard by God. God, in His mercy, answers my prayers.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Galatians 4:12-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Diocese on the Coast formerly (Ikale-Ilaje) - (Ondo, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Joshua Ogunele

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Feast Day of Holy Trinity, Danville; Trinity Church, Jacksonville; Trinity Church, Lincoln; Trinity Church, Mattoon; and Trinity, Mount Vernon; Christine C. Hopkins, Champaign, ordination to the Diaconate; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. G. Timothy and Debbie Leighton, Bloomington and of The Rev. Caleb S. and Julie Roberts, Champaign; Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Wedding Anniversary of Debbie & Deacon Tim Leighton.

## **Tuesday, June 12**

Ecclesiastes 8:14—9:10 *So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.* (v.15)

The author of Ecclesiastes speaks a lot about man's perception of creation on earth as being meaningless and chaotic. That's because he (and I) are creatures of God and cannot comprehend what God has done nor "what goes on under the sun." The righteous men get what the wicked deserve and the wicked get what the righteous deserve. Good people suffer and bad people prosper. That's not fair! And then, everyone dies and is forgotten in time! What kind of plan is that?

It's not a plan. It is a test of faith. I have to live *in* the world and not be *of* the world. And so, I will get out of the judgment game and stop the second guessing of why, why, why. Let me live in contentment with the lean times as well as the fat times in my life. I want to live my life in joy and with a peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

Psalms 61, 62; Galatians 4:21-31; Matthew 15:29-39

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Diocese in Europe - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Robert Innes; The Rt Revd David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Feast Day, St. Barnabas', Havana; Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign, admitted to the Diocese, 1882; Birthday of Barbara, wife of The Rev. John D. Richmond, Bartonville, and Catherine, wife of The Very Rev. Ian C. Wetmore, Lebanon. Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Megan Dyson.

### **Wednesday, June 13**

Matthew 16:1-12 *Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (v.12)*

Yeah, I know it's not funny, but I always get a chuckle out of how "obtuse" the apostles were at times. Actually, it just makes me feel a little better about myself when I eventually realize how limited my own understanding, action, statement, etc. has been.

The teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees was symptomatic of the old ways, and the apostles, as well as everyone else, were susceptible to their logic and persuasion. There are competing voices in our churches today. Divisions, based on denominations, new learnings, new understandings and heresy, are prevalent. As I continue my study of the Bible and learn more about the theology of my faith, it is apparent that effort and diligence is required. So, I point myself to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy when he reminds the reader, "Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." Great advice that I will follow.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18; Psalm 72; Galatians 5:1-15

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Eastern Kowloon - (Hong Kong) The Rt Revd Timothy Kwok

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* E. Eugene Hall, Champaign, ordination to the Priesthood; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Christine C. and Michael Hopkins, Champaign; Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants.

### **Thursday, June 14**

Galatians 5:16-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (vv.22-23)*

Are the fruits of the Spirit exclusive to the Spirit? Do non-believers (and even evil doers) get to enjoy the qualities of love, joy, and self-control? Apparently so. Why is it that I lose my self-control and my gentleness? That I stomp about the world in my abruptness?

Maybe I am a little too hard on myself and a little too naive when I observe other people. They probably get their fair share of difficulty, frustration, and shame. The lesson I am getting from Paul in his exhortation to the Galatians is that there is a conflict (a constant and ever-present conflict) between my flesh and my spirit. When I was much younger, I was of the mind that such conflicts would

eventually, you know, just go away. Well, that's one more thing I was wrong about.

This reading ends with, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." It's time to "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk." I'm not sure that I have crucified my flesh of its passions and desires, but I do know that I have experienced more and more of the fruits of the Spirit. And if that is taking place in my life, perhaps my flesh is moving ever so closer to the cross.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-8; Psalms 70, 71; Matthew 16:13-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Diocese of The Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands - (West Indies) The Rt Revd Laish Boyd

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants

ST. MATTHEW'S: Birthday of Ally Roberson.

### **Friday, June 15**

Matthew 16:21-28 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it." (vv.24-25)*

I read this passage and condemn myself. I seek a comfortable life for myself and not the cross. Jesus is telling his disciples (that's me included) that this world is to be denied. I can barely deny myself an ice cream treat after a big meal.

Am I any different than a morally up-right non-believer? What is setting me apart? OK, maybe I'm forsaking worldly status—that's not hard—not much status to forsake. How about worldly plans (if I had them, which I don't). The cross means death. Whether I discern that fact in a literal or metaphorical sense, it is inescapable. Jesus came to save me from my sin, and accepting him must include recognizing his right to rule my life. I am so far from perfection that having a loving God who would seek a relationship with me is in itself a mystery. I recognize who my Lord is. I pray for the strength to bear my cross.

Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:14; Psalm 69; Galatians 5:25—6:10

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Diocese of the Free State (formerly Bloemfontein) - (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Dintoe Letloenyane

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Peter's Chapel, Chesterfield, admitted to the Diocese, 1850; St. Paul's, Pekin, admitted to the Diocese, 1851; Brian T. Kellington, The Villages, FL, ordination to the Priesthood; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Christopher L. and Kathryn Ashmore, Jacksonville. Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Wedding Anniversary of Danielle Ward.

## **Saturday, June 16**

Numbers 3:1-13 *The LORD said to Moses, "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle."* (vv.5-7)

I delight in this passage because it reminds me of the privilege I have received as being a member of my church's Altar Guild. Being called out for service has been a blessing and a continuing ministry. The Levites were elevated to perform holy service, presumably, for their ability to channel their strong character in the service of God. Loyalty to Moses during the episode of the Golden Calf resulted in their reward of spiritual service that was lost to the firstborn of the other tribes.

Performing spiritual service is a reward in and of itself. My connection with the Altar Guild is an experience that connects me with each and every person attending our worship service. It is a service that provides an additional pathway to connect with the Spirit in prayer and with a grateful heart.

Psalms 75, 76; Galatians 6:11-18; Matthew 17:1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Western Kowloon - (Hong Kong) The Rt Revd Andrew Chan

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Pray for St. Michael's Conference Staff and Participants.

*by Larry Standish*

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**Pray for** the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Tim H. and family, Greg P., Linda S., Phyllis P., Bill J., Ron G., Bill, Bobbi, Matt, Tori B., Dave M., Bill Mc., Linda T., Dottie T., Roger H., Jack P., Zac & Alyssa & Carson C., Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Valerie R., Barbara A.

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed:

**Pray for** those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Ina R., and Margaret P.

**Pray for:** The Diocese of Tabora, Anglican Church of Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, the clergy and people. The Missionary Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Alejandro Mesco. Fr. Kari Marcelle, the clergy and people of Holy Trinity St. Vincent. Fr. Dave and all clergy, for whom we light the candle on the west side of the Altar