

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, June 3**

Acts 8:26-40 *“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked? “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?”* (vv.30b-31a NIV)

I am amazed at the way most people are glued to their electronic devices like cell phones, tablets, and computers. People walk and even drive with their heads down looking at their cell phones. It's not uncommon to see two people at a restaurant together scrolling through their phones rather than conversing with each other. Maybe I am “old fashioned.”

I can get really frustrated with all the technology one is supposed to know in today's age. I manage to make my way with computers and cell phones. There is so much information available to me anytime I want it—and even when I don't want it!

Rather than letting it irritate me, I am thankful for the advantages I have because of technology. There is literally abundant knowledge at my fingertips. I can look up Bible verses on my phone and connect to the internet in an instant. I can now easily access a multitude of Bible commentaries that help explain God's Word to me in the comfort of my own home and at my convenience.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; Psalms 63, 98; Luke 11:1-13

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* PRAY for The Anglican Church of Melanesia The Most Revd George Takeli Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and Bishop of Central Melanesia

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Havana; Kabuhima Parish, Tanzania; Kabuhima; The Anglican Diocese of Peru, The Rt. Rev. Jorge Aguilar, Bishop; Birthday of Lillian, widow of The Rev. Lucien Larivee, Champaign.

### **Monday, June 4**

Matthew 13:44-52 *“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.”* (v.47)

Sometimes the parables of Jesus are hard to understand. It helps me to be able to see and read the words Jesus spoke. Having the benefit of Jesus' words in writing gives me time to study and digest what he was saying. I love to read and hear the words of Jesus.

One of the other things I love about Jesus is the way he treated people. Jesus broke many barriers of his time. He spoke to women and taught them. He touched

those with infectious diseases. He treated the poor with respect and kindness. He also taught the religious and respectable people of his time. Like the verse above, his kingdom was available to *all* people—just like “all kinds of fish.”

And his truth is still for the people of today. All of humankind is invited to partake of his salvation. No one is exempt from his invitation. May we be thankful that we are included in the great plan of his salvation.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-15; Psalms 41, 52; Galatians 1:1-17

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Dar-es-Salaam - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Valentino Mokiwa

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. M. Christine Gregory, Maroa;

Birthday of Helen, wife of The Rev Canon Elliot Blackburn, Mason City, IA.

## **Tuesday, June 5**

Ecclesiastes 2:16-26 *A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see is, from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?* (vv.24-25)

When last did you compare yourself to someone else? It's a pretty common thing to do. At times, I have wished I had someone else's lifestyle or talents. I find it rather easy to look at other people and see what I lack.

However, I know God has a unique plan and purpose just for me. These verses redirect my thoughts to that. My life doesn't and shouldn't look like someone else's. I can relax and live according to the plan God has set before me.

Too often I have worried about not doing the right thing or not doing what other people are doing. I complicate the purposes of God's work in my life by doing that. I am learning to simplify my walk with God by asking Him what He wants *me* to do. I focus my mind and spirit on just doing and enjoying the things He has placed in my path. This ability is a gift from God.

Psalms 45; Galatians 1:18—2:10; Matthew 13:53-58

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Davao - (Philippines) The Rt Revd Jonathan Labasan Casimina

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Ralph N. McMichael, St. Louis, ordination to the Priesthood.

## **Wednesday, June 6**

Galatians 2:11-21 *“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.”* (vv.15-16)

I have heard several people say, “I'm a good person and I try to live by the Ten Commandments.” This is their way of saying that God will accept them into

heaven simply because they are good, moral people. The idea is that they do more good than bad, and that is acceptable to God. It is very hard for me to give a reply knowing that this is not what the Bible teaches.

I, for one, am glad that God doesn't look at my own goodness because I have done many things that are sinful. Some sins were done in ignorance and some done with full knowledge. There is a play on the word "justified" which helps me understand what Paul is talking about. It means "just as if I'd" never sinned.

This is what happened when I put my faith in Jesus. My debt to God was paid by Jesus. I am forever grateful. It's just as if I'd never sinned. I am clean, pure, and holy in Jesus. I am not justified by the things I do or don't do, but by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. It is by his grace alone that I am saved.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Psalm 119:49-72; Matthew 14:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Delaware - (Province III, The Episcopal Church) Vacant

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, consecration of present church building, 1926; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Canon Elliot and Helen Blackburn, Mason City, IA.

### **Thursday, June 7**

Matthew 14:13-21 *When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat to a solitary place.* (v.13a)

I am an introvert by nature. For a while I served in a large church as an ordained minister. There were always people around me that had needs. Sometimes it was overwhelming. I could not meet all their needs. It was important for me to take time away from the large number of people and get away by myself to recharge. This was something I learned over time.

At first I felt guilty about taking time away from church matters and people and even my own family. But God revealed to me that this was wise. How could I minister to others if I was worn out? How could I have the compassion of Jesus if I was overwhelmed with people's problems? It was necessary so I didn't experience burnout.

Even Jesus needed time away. He is our example. May we have the freedom to fill ourselves up with God first, before we try to meet the needs of others. We will be following the way of Jesus when we do.

Ecclesiastes 3:16—4:3; Psalm 50; Galatians 3:1-14

*ANGLICAN CYCLE* Delhi - (North India) Vacant

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, renew our spirits, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight.

## **Friday, June 8**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 *Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know they do wrong.* (v.1)

I have been a Christ follower for many years. I have attended church on a regular basis for many years as well. I don't like to admit it but at times I have felt pretty good about myself and my righteous lifestyle. Inwardly, I have thought God must be pretty happy with me. What pride!

This is a reminder to me that it's important to go to church with the right attitude. To listen and hear, not pat myself on the back for going. It's a reminder that even though I have faith in Christ, I still have the bent toward sin. Foolish people say they have no sin. God says otherwise.

My prayer is that God will always keep my heart soft and open to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. I want to be able to hear God when He says there is something in my life that needs attention. Maybe it is a sin I need to deal with. Often times, I need to correct my course. I pray I will never be foolish enough to think I am good enough on my own. I owe everything to the work of Jesus.

Psalms 40, 54; Galatians 3:15-22; Matthew 14:22-36

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Derby - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Alastair Redfern; Derby - Repton - The Rt Revd Janet Elizabeth McFarlane  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Arnold R. Hoffman, Glen Carbon, ordination to the Priesthood.

## **Saturday, June 9**

Matthew 15:1-20 *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”* (v.8)

Because I have been a Christ follower for many years, I know the “right” words to say. I can talk a whole lot about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Bible. It's easy for me to use words and language that sound like things you would hear in a church setting. Sometimes people call this talk “Christianese.”

But sometimes my words can get in the way of what I am actually feeling on the inside. What's going on inside my head and heart can be very different than what I let on to other people. This can even creep into my relationship with God. I'm not always open and honest with myself, others, or God. This is humbling to admit.

This verse is a reminder to me to be completely open and honest with God. He already knows the truth and what is really going on anyway! Why do I try to hide things from Him? I simply need to come and confess the reality of what is going on in the interior of my life. When that happens, He can work with me to be

pleasing to Him and accomplish His will in my life. I can stop hiding behind words and let God see the real me.

Ecclesiastes 5:8-20; Psalm 55; Galatians 3:23—4:11

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Derry & Raphoe - (Armagh, Ireland) The Rt Revd Kenneth Raymond Good;

Down & Dromore - The Rt Revd Harold Creeth Miller

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Laurie R. Kellington, The Villages, FL, ordination to the Diaconate; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Robert D. and Catherine Harmon, Mt. Vernon.

*by Pamela Newton*

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*For the St. Matthew's Community, please remember the following in your prayers this week:*

**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.

**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