

Good News Daily

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Number 26

Sunday, July 1

Acts 17:12-34 *“Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.”* (vv.22a-23 NIV)

This whole passage from Acts shows Paul’s great courage and his God-given wisdom, as he is brought before the intellectually elite group of men, known as the Areopagus, who were something like a Supreme Court of Athens. Athenians were always interested in hearing about new ideas, and some of the local philosophers had heard Paul preach the good news about Jesus and his resurrection. Disputing his teaching, and exasperated with him, they brought Paul to present this “new idea” to the Areopagus.

Paul begins his address with a compliment, then briefly summarizes what he as observed of their worship patterns. The fact that they worshiped many gods, including one “unknown god” opens the door for him to proclaim, “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.” Paul clearly laid out the gospel, and when he had finished, some sneered, some wanted to hear more, and, “a few men became followers of Paul and believed.” (v.34)

Lord, help us to be unafraid to share the gospel with scoffers and non-believers, and even the “religious” people who have missed the truth. By sharing, we might just be saving others’ lives.

Numbers 21:4-9, 21-35; Psalm 118; Luke 13:10-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of North India (United) The Most Revd Dr Prem Chand Singh, Moderator of CNI & Bishop of Jabalpur

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John Episcopal Church, Albion, The Rev. Bill Howard, Priest-in-Charge; Mbeta Parish, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Can. Benjamin Chishahayo, Rural Dean; Mission of the Medano Cross, Chiclayo, Peru, Rev’d Wilmar Plasencia, Priest in Charge; Birthday of The Rev John R. Henry, Plainview; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants.

Monday, July 2

Matthew 21:12-22 *“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”* (v.22)

Does this verse mean that if I believe in Jesus I can get all my prayers answered the way I want them answered? Does it imply that I can tell God what I

want/need, and if I believe He has the power to get it for me, He will? Is this some sort of magical formula: believe, pray, ask, and receive exactly what you've asked for? Would I be truly happy if God were simply the "great Santa Claus in the sky?"

Absolutely not! If this were the way God and prayer worked, He would simply be rewarding and encouraging selfishness, pridefulness, and lust. The Bible clearly teaches the opposite. God rewards the humble, not the self-centered. Peter, in 1 Peter 5:5, quotes Proverbs 3:34 when he writes, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

Being humble implies total trust and complete submission to the God who loves us so much that He willingly sent His one and only Son to die on the cross as a sacrifice for my sins, so that by his resurrection I may be forgiven, redeemed, and receive eternal life. Wanting anything less than this is foolish.

Dear Lord, thank You for forgiving me when I act selfishly, and please teach me humility as You deepen my faith.

Numbers 22:1-21; Psalm 106:1-18; Romans 6:12-23

ANGLICAN CYCLE: East Kerala - (South India) [The Rt Revd Kayalakkathu George Daniel](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Sheryl (Sherry) L. Black, Whittington, IL; and of The Rev. Canon Elliot H. Blackburn, Mason City, IA; Pray for the Church Camp Staff and Participants.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Phyllis Halt's birthday and the Wedding Anniversary of Shelly Carter & Brad Brenneman

Tuesday, July 3

Psalm 121 *He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.* (vv.3-4)

I am a very blessed woman who has been privileged to raise three wonderful children who have, in turn, blessed me with the joy of eight terrific grandchildren. So when I read Psalm 121, it brought back memories of "watching over" my children...when they were sick, rocking a feverish child back to sleep in the middle of the night; bathing and then changing crib sheets for babies with upset tummies when their cries woke me during the night; fumbling to the kitchen in the dark house to prepare a bottle for a sobbing infant; getting out of bed to get some aspirin to lessen the pain of a child's broken arm when they awoke hours before dawn.

Like all dutiful mothers, I lost my share of sleep; but it was such a small sacrifice when compared to the joys my children have brought me. I lived with a bit of sleep deprivation for a few years because I loved them so much, and it was

my job to take care of them. However, my motherly love does not even begin to approach the depth and power of God's love for all his children.

Think about the verse above and just picture our God who *never* goes to sleep because He is *always* watching over us. Wow!

Numbers 22:21-38; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Romans 7:1-12; Matthew 21:23-32

ANGLICAN CYCLE: East Ruwenzori - (Uganda) [The Rt Revd George Turyasingura](#); Karamoja - [The Rt Revd Joseph Abura](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Trinity, Lincoln, Admitted to the Diocese, 1871; Pray for the Church Camp Staff and Participants; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

Wednesday, July 4

Matthew 21:33-46 *When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them.* (v.45)

In this passage Jesus tells the "Parable of the wicked Tenants," or as *The Message* calls it, "The Story of the Greedy Farmhands." The chief priests and the Pharisees must have listened to Jesus fairly attentively because they definitely figured out that they themselves were indeed the "wicked tenants" in this story, and were the ones who had disobeyed God and would soon be responsible for plotting to kill the Vineyard Owner's son.

The sad thing to me about these leaders is that they professed to know everything about God, His laws, the prophets who had preceded Jesus...they had the Torah, the Psalms, and the story of God's people from creation to that present day. And still they failed to recognize that Jesus was the fulfillment of all that God had predicted and promised. They had the Messiah himself, to whom all the Scriptures pointed all through their Bible, and yet they were completely blind to the truth and considered this Jesus a rebel, a troublemaker, and a threat to their way of life and their control over the people of Israel.

We know that no one can accept and believe that Jesus is who he professes to be unless the Holy Spirit has opened the eyes of their hearts. I pray, Father that You would open the eyes of all who are blind, and keep my eyes open and focused on You so that I may continue to see You more fully each day.

Numbers 22:41—23:12; Psalm 119:145-176; Romans 7:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: East Tennessee - (Province IV, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Brian Lee Cole](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's, Alton, Consecration of present church building, 1857; Birthday of the Rev. David J. Boase, Godfrey; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX
ST. MATTHEW'S: Dave Halt's (Fr Dave's Dad – Dave) birthday

Thursday, July 5

Romans 8:1-11 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.* (vv.6-7)

Paul wrote this masterful letter to the Christians of Rome before he actually visited Rome. Neither Paul nor any of the apostles had yet been to Rome, and apparently the church there had been started by Jews who had become believers while in Jerusalem during Pentecost. In this letter, Paul lays out a highly organized, logical statement of his faith, explaining the facts of the gospel, the foundations of the faith, sin, salvation, forgiveness, the law, and grace. The latter chapters of Paul's letter to the Romans deal with personal responsibilities and practical teaching on how to live as a Christian in a hostile world.

Paul shows us that we have a choice in life: we can allow our minds to be ruled, dominated, and controlled either by sin or by God's Holy Spirit. The effects of each choice are clear. Sin results in death (on many levels), but the Spirit-led mind results in (eternal) life, and lasting peace. There is no such peace unless we submit ourselves to God and obey Him only. When we come to faith in Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit and it is only through the power of that Spirit that we are enabled to be obedient and to attain a peaceful life.

Thank You, gracious Lord, that You are ever ready to help us choose rightly and to keep us on the path of righteousness.

Numbers 23:11-26; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Matthew 22:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Eastern Himalayas - (North India)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. J. Victor Sheldon, Palm Coast, FL.;

Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

Friday, July 6

Romans 8:12-17 *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of Sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."* (v.15)

God's incredible gift to all true believers, the Holy Spirit, is described here as a spirit of sonship that enables us to have an intimate relationship with God the Father. The word, "abba," is the Aramaic word for "father," and is sometimes translated as "Daddy." The Romans reading Paul's letter would immediately make the connection that now our "daddy" will care for, love, and protect us, so that fear has no place in our lives if we believe and trust our Daddy.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, 1:7, he writes, "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (some translations use "fear" in place of "timidity"), but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline." I had been a fearful person since childhood,

but I hid this flaw from most people and tried to conquer my fears through my own determination and self-will. However, despite how strong I (and many others) thought I was, I just couldn't keep fear out of my life, and thankfully, in time I came to believe the Scripture and trust that God's Holy Spirit working in me could banish fear, and he did! Yes, there are still times when fear begins to creep into my thoughts, but *if* I call on the power of the Spirit, he dissolves it. What a great miracle for me!

Thank You, most gracious Lord, for this great gift You have given to all believers. Help us to not forget to call on the Spirit in any time of need.

Numbers 24:1-13; Psalms 140, 142; Matthew 22:15-22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Eastern Michigan - (Province V, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Todd Ousley](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Pekin; Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

Saturday, July 7

Matthew 22:23-40 *Jesus replied, "‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* (vv.37-40)

The Pharisees never stopped trying to discredit Jesus, and this reply was in answer to a question they had asked to "test" him: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" They likely had assumed that whatever answer Jesus gave, they could find a way to find fault with it. Scripture doesn't record their reaction to this answer. The very next verse of Matthew tells us that then Jesus began to ask them some questions, and finally they were unable to answer Him: "and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions." (v.46)

I have pondered the above quoted verses and have come to understand what an absolutely brilliant response Jesus gave. If we do, indeed, love God in this deep, "full-on" totally committed fashion, and *if* we truly love others as ourselves, we will therefore be keeping all the other commandments, or "laws."

Oh, precious Lord, help us to love as You have loved us.

Numbers 24:12-25; Psalms 137, 144; Romans 8:18-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador - (Canada) [The Rt Revd Geoffrey Peddle](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for Church Camp Staff and Participants; pray for the Episcopal Church General Convention in Austin, TX

ST. MATTHEW'S: Abigail Bray's birthday

by Anna Cash

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Jenna A., Mary, James T., Julie C., Valerie R., Barbara A., Bill B., Ms. Shayne, Diane B., Steve J., Carol D.

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