

Good News Daily

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Sunday, October 21

Matthew 16:13-20 *He asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God."* (vv.13-16 NRSV)

Who is Jesus? We must all answer that question. Is he a good moral teacher, a prophet, a liar? That is what some people who saw and heard Jesus thought. They didn't know what to make of him. A few months ago, I was talking with a friend who is struggling with this very question. I shared with her that, sure, Jesus is a great teacher. Sure, he is a good person who lived well and is an example to us. But I can't get past the crucifixion and resurrection. That makes Jesus different. He is like me, but he isn't like me. He is the Messiah.

Her response: If this is true, then it changes everything! If this is true, it is the greatest news of all time and we should tell everyone all the time! She doesn't yet believe it, but she is right. If we believe Jesus is the Son of the Living God, that belief changes everything. So, let me ask you, who do you say that Jesus is?

Song of Solomon 2:8-17; Psalms 148, 149, 150; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for The Church of the Province of West Africa [The Most Revd Dr Daniel Sarfo](#) Primate & Metropolitan, CPWA, Archbishop of the Internal province of Ghana and Bishop of Kumasi Assistant Bishop, The Rt Revd Ross Nicholson, Assistant Bishop

DIOCESAN CYCLE: All Saints Episcopal Church, Morton, The Rev. Matthew C. Dallman, Priest in Charge; Goweko Mission, Tanzania, Rev. Tiyishime Amon, Vicar; Mission of St. Luke, District of Cerro Colorado, Arequipa, Peru, Rev'd Ricardo Vergara, Vicar.

Monday, October 22

Luke 9:51-62 *As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."* (vv.57-58)

If Jesus is the Messiah, everything changes. In our Gospel passage today, it mentions that Jesus had "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (v.51). This act defines who he is as Messiah—one who would die for the world he came to save. Most Jewish people at this time expected the Messiah to come as a conquering warrior

or a majestic king, not as a wandering teacher who taught death as the way to life. But that is who Jesus is.

Some will not receive him. To follow Jesus is not a “Jesus and…” proposition. There is only one way to follow Jesus—with your whole life. This is hard—not popular and not comfortable. When I really started to follow Jesus, he began to ask for different aspects of my life. Some of those things were small—movies and TV shows that I liked but weren’t good for my soul. Some of those things were big—my career choices and what neighborhood I lived in. Some of those things were harder to surrender to him than others; but each time, I discovered that Jesus is worth it. Following Jesus is not easy, but it is good.

Song of Solomon 4:1—5:1; Psalm 25; Revelation 7:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Iowa - (Province VI, The Episcopal Church) [The Rt Revd Alan Scarfe](#);

Kansas - (Province VII, The Episcopal Church) [Vacant](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Loving Lord Jesus, enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness.

Tuesday, October 23

Luke 10:1-16 *He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.”* (vv. 2-3)

For those of us who follow Jesus, we have a mission. Our mission, should we choose to accept it, is declaring that “The kingdom of God has come near” (vv.9, 11). In this passage, we see two responses to this message (and to the person of Jesus, as we saw yesterday). Some respond with joy while others respond with disdain or apathy. However, regardless of response, we are to proclaim the message.

Recently I was meeting with friends on a community college campus. We were studying the Bible together when a student walked up to invite us to a club party. We talked with her for a few moments, and then said that we were Christians and asked if we could pray for her in any way. Immediately, she opened up and told us about a very difficult situation in her life. As we prayed, she wept. Afterward she said that she believed God had led her to talk to us that day. Some will respond with joy.

Song of Solomon 5:2—6:3; Psalms 26, 28; Revelation 7:9-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Iran - (Jerusalem & Middle East) [Vacant](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Strengthen the faith of us who believe in you, O Lord, and sow the seed of faith into the hearts of those who do not believe in you, O Lord.

Wednesday, October 24

Luke 10:17-24 *The seventy returned with joy...At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."* (vv.17, 21)

When we bring the message of the kingdom to the world, we experience joy and Jesus experiences joy! Every time a conversation turns to spiritual things, especially Jesus, I get nervous. My stomach churns, my words get muddled, and I wish that someone else who knew more or could say it better was there instead of me. When I was talking with my friend (see Sunday), I felt like I was saying all the wrong things. It was awkward. I was awkward. Thank goodness for Jesus' words in our reading today—the gospel is not just for the wise or intelligent. God reveals it to all, even to infants!

By the end of our conversation, my friend thanked me, saying she had a lot to think about! Later that night, I prayed with joy, rejoicing that she saw Jesus in a new way through our conversation. And I sensed God's joy that I had not wiggled out of the conversation, but stayed engaged, even in my inadequacy and insecurity. Who might God be calling you to speak to this week about Jesus and his message? How might you find joy in the midst of awkwardness?

Song of Solomon 8:5-14; Psalm 38; Revelation 8:1-13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Isiala-Ngwa - (Aba, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Owen Azubuike](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Laurie R. Kellington, The Villages, FL.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Adrienne Ives.

Thursday, October 25

Luke 10:25-37 *"And who is my neighbor?"* (v.29b)

Imagine Jesus' story this way: A man on his way to church passed through an inner-city neighborhood. He was mugged, beaten, and left unconscious on the curb. A pastor driving by saw the man but drove on, afraid it was a scam. Similarly, a Bible study leader saw the man but did not stop as he was running late for Bible study. Lastly, a local drug dealer rode by, saw the man, and stopped. He picked the man up, bandaged his wounds and took him to the Vacation Lodge, paid for two days and told the manager he would be back in a couple days to pay whatever else was needed. Who was the neighbor?

Does this story sound outrageous? When Jesus told it, it was equally outrageous to his hearers. God's kingdom is an upside-down kingdom. So, who is your neighbor? "Go and do likewise" (v.37).

Esther 1:1-4, 9-12, 16-22; Psalm 37:1-18; Revelation 9:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Isial-Ngwa South - (Aba, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Isaac Nwaobia](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Michael J. and Karen Newago, Havana

Friday, October 26

Luke 10:38-42 *“Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”* (vv.41b-42)

We often read this passage as a condemnation of Martha. But Martha was doing what she should have been doing. She was playing the part of a woman in that society. Mary is the one who was breaking all cultural norms! In this time, the only ones who sat at the feet of Jesus listening to him teach were the disciples—the men. Yet, that is exactly where we find Mary. When Martha rightly tries to return Mary to her proper place, Jesus affirms Mary’s choice, and even goes beyond affirmation to declare that Mary’s choice of discipleship is the only thing that is needed!

The kingdom of God is an upside-down kingdom. It is a kingdom where women are disciples; where there is no need to work to earn our place. The only thing needed is to place ourselves at his feet as disciples. So, take a seat. Jesus welcomes you there.

Esther 2:1-11; Psalm 31; Revelation 9:13-21

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Isikwuato - (Aba, Nigeria) [The Rt Revd Manasses Chijioke Okere](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, grant us the fullness of your grace, that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Chris Bennett

Saturday, October 27

Luke 11:1-13 *“For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened...If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”* (vv.10, 13)

Jesus came announcing God’s kingdom, and it was not what the people expected. God’s heart was always one of forgiveness (just read the Psalms for today). God’s heart was always to be present with His people. But over time, we tend to make it less about being with God and more about following rules. Growing up in church, I knew God. I tried to live a life that I thought would honor God. But most of the time, I thought a godly life was about me and how well I followed the rules.

Then, my freshman year of college, I remember walking down a hallway and asking God to lead me. I would not have described it this way, but I asked for

the Holy Spirit that day. And I know that God was pleased to give that good gift! Following Jesus is not about rules. It is about admitting our inability to earn our way into God's favor, and asking, searching, knocking. When we do, we receive, we find, and the door is opened. So, friend, quit your striving today. Ask... search... knock. Your Father is waiting to give you the good gift of His kingdom!

Esther 2:12-23; Psalms 30, 32; Revelation 10:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Jaffna - (South India) [The Rt Revd Daniel Selvaratnam Thiagarajah](#)

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Canon Martha J. Bradley, Springfield.

by Kim Koi

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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., Debbie T.

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