

Good News Daily

Volume XIX

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Number 13

Sunday, March 31

Mark 8:11-21 *The Pharisees came and began to question Jesus. To test him, they asked him for a sign from heaven. He sighed deeply and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to it." Then he left them, got back into the boat and crossed to the other side. (vv.11-13 NIV)*

Have you ever thought of yourself as a Pharisee? I have on occasion, but generally like to think of myself as a bit more humble. After this reading though, my conscience was pricked. How often have I questioned Jesus? How often have I tested Jesus? How often have I asked God for a sign?

God wants me to know His will and does not hide Himself or the path I am to take. But these verses caution me not to be more interested in a "sign" or tangible proof of what God is telling me. It is about my attitude. When the Pharisees insisted on a sign to test Jesus, that is when Jesus left them.

God wants me to trust and believe Him—not the outward signs or circumstances He chooses to allow. My attitude and intent are what matters. I choose to have faith in the person of Jesus—not what he does or doesn't do. How about you?

Jeremiah 14:1-9, 17-22; Psalms 66, 67; Galatians 4:21—5:1

ANGLICAN CYCLE: **Pray for** the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song - Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of the Seychelles

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark's, W. Frankfort, The Very Rev. Sherry Black, Priest-in-Charge; Muungano Parish, Tanzania: Rev. Rev. Samson Yakobo; The missions of Santa Natividad, Yarabamba, and Santas María y Martha de Betania, Ilo, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar; Birthday of Ione, wife of The Rev. Canon Dr. George E. Pence, Edwardsville.

Monday, April 1

Psalms 89:1-18 *Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, LORD. (v.15 NLT)*

In the readings for today there is a contrast between following sinful ways or righteous ways. It brought to mind the first days of when I came to know Christ in a personal relationship with him. I felt such a relief of heaviness. It was as if someone turned on the lights for me.

This psalm states what I was feeling. I was no longer bound to live with heaviness, enslaved to works of darkness. It was as if God was shining His light on

me and the path He wanted me to take. My eyes were opened to the happiness of knowing and following God.

It is still a promise for me many years later. As I continue to walk with God, He provides light and direction for every step I take. Happiness and joy never get old, even though I do.

Jeremiah 16:10-21; Romans 7:1-12; John 6:1-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbeere (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Moses Masamba Nthukah; Wellington (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*) The Rt Revd Justin Duckworth, The Rt Revd Eleanor Sanderson (*Assistant Bishop*); Idah (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Joseph Musa

DIOCESAN CYCLE: J. Victor Sheldon, Palm Cost, FL, ordination to the Priesthood

ST. MATTHEWS: Wedding anniversary of Julie & Chris Bennett

Tuesday, April 2

John 6:16-27 *“But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.”* (v.27)

Jesus had just fed a huge crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. There were even leftovers! But still they wanted more and sought Jesus out.

Jesus reveals the group’s real motive which was simply to be fed physically once again. The people were mostly interested in what Jesus could do for them. They seemed to completely miss the spiritual side of what he offered.

He told them it wasn’t about the things (bread and fish), but about seeking him and his kingdom. Sometimes you and I get it wrong too. We seek the hand of Jesus and not the person of Jesus. At times we may be more interested in the solution and end to our difficulty rather than in our spiritual growth and relationship with him. Today, may we be reminded to spend our energy on what really matters—seeking Jesus and becoming more like him.

Jeremiah 17:19-27; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 7:13-25

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mbhashe (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Elliot Williams; Wernyol (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Gabriel Kuol Garang

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us insight, Lord, to understand and feel as others feel.

ST. MATTHEWS: Patty Pitts’ birthday.

Wednesday, April 3

John 6:27-40 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life." (v.35a NIV)*

This metaphor Jesus uses for himself, as bread, is very telling. Jesus uses something very basic and accessible to most human beings. Even many poor people are able to buy or make bread. It is something basic. Simple. Needful.

Jesus is letting us know that a relationship with him is a basic necessity. Bread is something simple, basic, and needful. He is making himself available—even to poor. Jesus offers himself as what is the most essential. If we don't eat or drink, we die. If we don't have Jesus, we die—not just physically but also spiritually.

Are we partaking of this "Jesus bread" daily? Am I eating and filling myself up with him? It is simple. Needful. Are you hungry? Jesus says, "Come and eat."

2 Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalms 101, 109; Romans 8:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Meath & Kildare (*Ireland*) The Most Revd Patricia Louise Storey; West Ankole (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Johnson Twinomujuni; West Buganda The Rt Revd Henry Katumba-Tamale

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Thursday, April 4

Romans 8:12-27 *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. (v.26 NLT)*

"I'm at a loss for words." Have you ever spoken that phrase? There are two particular times I find myself in this position. One is when I am completely filled with joy and thanksgiving and want to give my entire being over to God in praise for all He has done. The second is when I am completely overwhelmed with sorrow or emotional distress. Both times, I find myself speechless.

I have a daughter who is a single mom to her five-year-old son. Life is hard for her. In prayer for her and my grandson, I can be easily overcome with emotion. Sometimes, I simply let tears come and ask the Holy Spirit to say to the Father what I cannot. Peace follows, knowing the Spirit has prayed exactly according to the Father's will.

What a marvelous assurance to have! Thank You, Father, for Your Son and the Holy Spirit who plead on our behalf.

Jeremiah 22:13-23; Psalm 69; John 6:41-51

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Medak (*South India*) The Rt Revd A.C. Solomon Raj; West Lango (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Alfred Acur Okodi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Jesus, illuminate and brighten the entire world.

Friday, April 5

Romans 8:28-39 *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?* (v.35)

This portion of Scripture is so incredibly powerful! One can feel the excitement building as the words draw the chapter to a close: “nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God” (v.39).

We live in a fallen world. Daily, we face personal struggles, health crises, political turmoil, financial stress, and sometimes even spiritual disappointment. Even though I don't like to admit it or say it out loud, sometimes I wonder if circumstances will prevail instead of God. That is brutal honesty.

The apostle Paul is reminding us that despite circumstances—job loss, cancer, death of a loved one, hunger—God will love us and see us through. Our job is to let Him. Will you remain in the powerful love of God through Christ today?

Jeremiah 23:1-8; Psalm 102; John 6:52-59

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Melbourne (*Australia*) The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier (*Primate*); The Rt Revd Paul Barker, Assistant, The Rt Revd Dr Bradly Billings, Assistant, The Rt Revd Kate Prowd, Assistant, The Rt Revd Genieve Blackwell, Assistant; West Missouri (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Martin Field
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Venerable Shawn W. Denney, Springfield; Birthday of Jan, wife of The Rev. Dr. Ralph N. McMichael, St. Louis.
ST. MATTHEWS: Martha Carroll's and Ann Sokan's birthday.

Saturday, April 6

John 6:60-71 *“The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”* (v.63)

Many people think of themselves as “a good person.” They might even say, “I'm a good person. I'm sure I will go to heaven.” On the other hand, some people think they have done more good things for God than doing bad things during their life time.

Just like in this passage, some people find the gospel offensive and narrow-minded. And yet Jesus continues to speak truth. He reminds us that nothing we do in our own effort will be able to bring about spiritual life. We cannot earn God's love—or be good enough to get into heaven by what we do or don't do.

You might also have heard it said, “It's not about you.” Jesus agrees. It's all about him, his work accomplished at the cross and his work in us on our behalf. May we remember to feed on Jesus daily. Let us allow the Spirit to bring us life.

Jeremiah 23:9-15; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Romans 9:1-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Meru (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Charles Mwendwa; West Malaysia (*South East Asia*) The Most Revd Ng Moon Hing (*Primate*); The Rt Revd Charles Samuel, The Rt Revd Jayson Selvaraj; Idaho (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Brian Thom
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit give us hearts to understand.
ST. MATTHEWS: Debbie Thomas' birthday.

by Pamela Newton

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Pray for the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Robin L., Margret L.

Pray for the Faithful Departed:

Pray for those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., Daniel T., Bob C., 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.