

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume XIX**

**July 14-20, 2019**

**Number 28**

### **Sunday, July 14**

Matthew 23:29-39 *“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.”* (v.37 NAS)

In many ways today’s reading is at the heart of Christ’s message. Extremist’s solutions are to kill, whereas Christ’s solution is to gather. How true in today’s world as well.

In the Middle East, many hard-core Muslims rage against what they consider the loose morality and decadent materialism of the West. In turn, some politicians here in the United States point the finger at immigrants as a source of evil. Both sides point the finger at each other and, like the Pharisees of Christ’s time, would obliterate the other in the name of God.

Matthew writes that in his time, the self-righteous weren’t killing hedonists or foreigners per se; they were killing prophets sent by God! The irony becomes evil when, in the name of God, the best of us are killed. Christ’s preference is to save, to protect, and to gather. Why does the self-righteous heart forget again and again that God’s preference is to gather rather than to destroy?

1 Samuel 17:50—18:4; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Romans 10:4-17

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, The Most Revd Joel Atiwag Pachao - Prime Bishop of the Philippines

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. John's Episcopal Church, Centralia, The Rev Canon David Baumann, Priest-in-Charge; Kanindo Mission, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Mikas Nyandwi; [The Parish of the Most Holy Trinity & Missions](#), San Juan de Miraflores, Peru, The Rev. Julio Montoya, Vicar General.  
*ST. MATTHEWS:* Linda & Craig Baughan’s wedding anniversary.

### **Monday, July 15**

1 Samuel 18:5-16, 27b-30 *Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.* (v.9)

In the late 70s, an exclusive American retail chain began to eye older employees for early retirement. My father was one. He, a faithful employee who had worked his way up to Corporate Security Director, had come to find a younger, offensive person thrust upon him as a replacement to train. “I never hated a man so much in my life,” he whispered to my mother once.

The story of Saul and David took a similar turn, except Saul's "replacement" was a righteous man. It is a morality story of ego, sportsmanship, and loyalty in which tests are won by forfeiting pride, which David repeatedly accomplishes.

Like Saul, my father had other worries to deal with besides being replaced, and it was not long before he suffered a stroke. Fortunately, my father recovered, but it left me wondering how I will fare when my pride is tested later in life and I am vulnerable. Teach me, Lord, *how* to lose my life in order to save it.

Psalm 25; Acts 11:19-30; Mark 1:29-45

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Malawi (*Central Africa*) The Rt Revd Fanuel Emmanuel Magangani;

Barbados (*West Indies*) Michael Maxwell; Kampala (*Uganda*) The Most Revd Stanley Ntagali (*Primate*); Kampala, The Rt Revd Hannington Mutebi

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation.

## **Tuesday, July 16**

Acts 12:1-17 *So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. (v.5)*

Unlike today, first century Christians did not know "freedom of religion" as we understand it. If it pleased the crowd to torment believers, an early ruler like Herod had no qualms. There was no Bill of Rights or Constitution to lean on.

However, early believers came to know a new King of Kings. And an audience with Him could be made by a peasant, a Jew, a Greek, a woman or a man, a freeman or even one in jail—like Peter—by something as simple as a prayer.

Peter was miraculously freed from his prison cell by an angel in the dark of night. Answered prayers in my life have not always been quite as dramatic, but astonishing resolves I've had that creep up slowly like a wisteria bloom after months of petition are just as stunning and convincing. I find myself engaging in political discussion all the time with friends as much as the next guy. But, I confess, a Bill of Rights is still no match to faith the size of a mustard seed.

1 Samuel 19:1-18; Psalms 26, 28; Mark 2:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Mexico (*Mexico*) The Most Revd Francisco Moreno (*Primate*); Bari (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Idris Zubairu

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Lord, we ask for protection, but even more for guidance.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* John Gibson and Tori Roberson's birthdays.

## **Wednesday, July 17**

Mark 2:13-22 *"No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and the skins as well; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins." (v.22)*

Recently, historian Emily Kate explored the history of wine containers in a 2014 post at [www.academicwino.com](http://www.academicwino.com). In it, she traced the history of ancient wineskins, pottery (amphorae containers), terracotta, wood, bottles, and finally our own contemporary bag-in-a box. Each had benefits and limitations regarding preservation or ease of wine transport. Her conclusion was that “if the bottle was a return to the airtight ancient amphora, the bag-in-a-box is homage to the malleable biblical wineskin.”

Wineskins were not only flexible, they were personal. However, as Jesus pointed out, they are malleable only up to a point. When they get old, they can stiffen and crack and, worst, are unable to expand as wine may continue to ferment.

Is Christ saying, “I want a soul to be flexible enough for me to ferment in”? Is he suggesting that while Pharisees are no longer malleable, sinners may still be and that’s what he’s really after? If, in time, I become a righteous leader in the Church, will Christ still be able to mold me, or will he look elsewhere?

1 Samuel 20:1-23; Psalm 38; Acts 12:18-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE* Egypt - Northern Michigan (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Rayford Ray;

Barisal (*Bangladesh*) The Rt Revd Shourabh Pholia; Barrackpore (*India*) The Rt Revd Paritosh Canning

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: Birthday of Ann, widow of The Rt. Rev. Donald M. Hultstrand, Greenville, SC

### **Thursday, July 18**

Psalm 37:1-18 *Delight yourself in the LORD; and He will give you the desires of your heart.* (v.4)

A gardener to a private estate once recalled a deer getting trapped in wrought iron fencing. Those who rushed to the rescue soon found a challenge as their tools to free the deer created added trauma.

While David is well known for his passion, one might also conclude he understood cause and effect. He knew when to wage war—and when to be still.

The word “Delight” in this passage comes from the Hebrew *anag*, which means to be pliable, soft, delicate, effeminate. Grammatically, it is also an imperative command, similar to when David writes, “be still” (v.7). When trouble surrounds you, delight, relax, and be still before the Lord—and then you will receive the “mishala,” or “requests” of your heart.

Jesus said there would be *few* that find the kingdom of God. How often do I miss finding that kingdom with all my flailings, like the deer caught in the fence? David says be still—and receive.

1 Samuel 20:24-42; Acts 13:1-12; Mark 2:23—3:6

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Philippines (*Philippines*) The Rt Revd Brent Alawas, The Rt Revd Miguel Yamoyam; Bath & Wells (*England*) The Rt Revd Peter Hancock, The Rt Revd Ruth Worsley

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Almighty God, make us gentle and courteous in word and deed.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Doug Dyson's birthday.

### **Friday, July 19**

Mark 3:7-19a *And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He could send them out to preach.* (v.14)

By all accounts, the twelve apostles were ordinary working-class people. Jesus chose no governors, or kings, or wealthy landowners—not even clergy.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege to chronicle faith stories of those at the church I attend. I was struck at how varied the stories were, the unusual challenges people faced, and the endless answered prayers that worked themselves out in the lives of these ordinary people. I felt I'd unearthed a massive secret vineyard—laden with fruit.

As in the first century, Christ has an interest in the common folk, perhaps because it is so unexpected. What on earth would a king have to do with common people? Except to thoroughly surprise us.

The faith stories I listened to were published in our church blog. In them, they carried all the joy and surprise and wonder that one might expect of the early twelve when they shared their stories of faith as well. Leaving me to think there are more bustling vineyards than meets the eye.

1 Samuel 21:1-15; Psalm 31; Acts 13:13-25

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Territory, (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Dr Greg Anderson; Bathurst, The Rt Revd Ian Palmer; Kano (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Zakka Nyam

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Heavenly Father, may we rediscover those deep things on which our life depends.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Rose Adams' birthday.

### **Saturday, July 20**

Psalm 32 *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.* (v.2 KJV)

The greatest eulogy I have ever heard was of a gardener named Antonio who reminisced over his deceased supervisor. "Wink" had managed the buildings and grounds of a private estate. "He knew how to do everything," Antonio recalled. Wink was a skilled mechanic, supervised grounds and building maintenance, and was a master carpenter. Antonio boasted, "He taught me everything I knew."

I spent nearly 40 years of my life managing a similar estate. The demands of quality craftsmanship, coordinating events, and wrestling employee drama, can test a person's temper like nothing else. I've seen people endure all that gracefully—but it's rare.

And yet, as Antonio recalled, Wink never once lost his temper. He never threw anything. He never yelled at anyone. Antonio ended by saying, "He was, well, like an angel." I sat speechless. It was the greatest compliment I'd ever heard. Imagine someone describing you that way? I wanted to be like Wink, a man with no guile.

1 Samuel 22:1-23; Psalm 30; Acts 13:26-43; Mark 3:19b-35

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Northern Uganda (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Johnson Gakumba; Bauchi (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Musa Tula; Kansas (*The Episcopal Church*) Vacant  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed the world.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Valarie Jones' birthday.

*by William Bacon*

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**Pray for** the sick and those in distress: Charlie, Margret L., Allan H., James G.

**Pray for** the Faithful Departed: Woody S., Bob C., Daniel T.

**Pray for** those living in nursing homes and other shut-ins: Dale B., Barb W., 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.