

Good News Daily

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Sunday, July 7

Psalm 147 *His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior; the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.* (vv.10-11 NIV)

I've often wondered how society and my understanding of Scripture would be different if I lived in a land that was ruled by a king. The only experience I have with this is through the movies. When the king passed by, the people bowed; not based upon their like or dislike of him, but what he could do if you did not. He demanded respect and was someone you feared, yet always wanted to get a little closer to. I love the fact that we serve a good (really good) King whose greatest delight is those who fear Him and trust His unfailing love. He's not the King who admires our great accomplishments or the many things we possess. He's not impressed with how we look on the outside, or how much money we make. All He wants is for us to fully revere Him alone and trust that His love will always come through for us.

1 Samuel 14:36-45; Psalm 146; Romans 5:1-11; Matthew 22:1-14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, The Most Revd Allan Migi - Archbishop of Papua New Guinea

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Carlinville, The Rev John R. Henry, Rector; Keza Mission, Burundian Refugee Settlement, Tanzania, Rev. Nestory Nintunze; Mission of the Ascension, and Mission of The Transfiguration, Lima, Peru, Rev'd Alberto Valdivia, Rev'd Allen Hill, Priests, Rev'd Rachel Hill, Deacon.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Abigail Bray's birthday.

Monday, July 8

1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-23 *But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry."* (vv.22-23a)

"Listen to Jesus and do what he says" is the best advice I've ever received. Sometimes I wish the Lord's words weren't so black and white, but instead offered more latitude: "Rebellion is not a good idea, but if you do rebel, it's OK," or "Obedience is nice, but if you don't obey, just do a lot of good church things to make up for it," or "Arrogance is not worshiping yourself, it's just pride in all the great things you have accomplished for God—unlike all the other people in your church."

Because I bear Jesus' name, he's serious about how I portray him. So, when I disobey what he says in Scripture or what he tells me to do right then, I'm trusting in my own power over his. When I'm not loving my neighbor or loving God, I'm being arrogant and saying that I bow down to myself—I'm worthy to be worshipped. Lord Jesus, save me from myself. Open my ears to hear your words, even your heart, so that I will do anything you ask.

Psalms 1, 2, 3; Acts 9:19b-31; Luke 23:44-56a

ANGLICAN CYCLE: North West Australia (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Gary Nelson; Awka (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Alexander Ibezim; Kafanchan, The Rt Revd Marcus Dogo

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Donald E. and Delores Coventry, Decatur;

Tuesday, July 9

Psalm 6 *Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.* (vv.8b-9)

I used to be afraid that if I didn't pray in full and complete sentences, the Lord wouldn't understand what I was saying. And then pain, desperation, fear or joy would arise, and I just couldn't get any words out at all. The only thing I could do was cry. One time a friend had wounded me so deeply I didn't even know what to say to God. I sat in silence and cried. Finally, in between sobs I said, "God I hope you can hear me because my heart is crying out as loud as it can."

The Lord hears my weeping. He fully understands what every tear is saying and He receives that just like words. He knows and receives my tears of pain, or joy. Sometimes I pray in images because words just aren't enough. And in moments of great joy I'm screaming like my home team just won State. I'm grateful that the Lord is a multi-lingual God.

1 Samuel 15:24-35; Psalm 5; Acts 9:32-43; Luke 23:56b—24:11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Argentina (*South America*) The Rt Revd Nicholas James Quested Drayson; Northern Argentina, The Rt Revd Mateo Alto, The Rt Revd Crisanto Rojas; Awori (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd J Akin Atere

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Michael J. Newago, Havana.

Wednesday, July 10

Luke 24:12-35 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.* (v.27)

I wish I could have heard this dialogue. Jesus explaining all the things in the Old Testament that pointed to him. I love the Old Testament—how it points to Jesus, reflects Jesus, makes us long for Jesus, and displays the perfect unity of the Trinity. It's like a great action movie. From Creation, the whole Gang was there; and after

sin entered, God said He would put hostility between the offspring of Satan and the offspring of Eve. However, one of these offspring would crush Satan's head and Satan would strike his heel. Wow, there's Jesus right there in the OT! Not to mention the Passover in Exodus, the law in Leviticus, and the numerous prophecies about Jesus in the books of the prophets. In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, the people listed are all found in the Old Testament. It really helps me to understand why Jesus did the things he did.

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern California (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Barry Beisner; Badagry (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Joseph Adeyemi; Ballarat (*Australia*) The Rt Revd Garry Weatherill

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Steven T. Thorp, Champaign; Birthday of Janet, wife of The Rev. Maurice C. Lee, Stone Mountain, GA; Wedding anniversary of The Rt. Rev. Peter H. and Melinda Beckwith of Hillsdale, MI; and of The Rev. Dr. Daniel and Joyce Karanja, Hampton, VA.;

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 10:1-16

Thursday, July 11

Psalm 18:1-20 *He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.* (vv.16-19)

A few years ago, I was in an emotionally, verbally, and sometimes physically abusive friendship. It didn't start out that way (it never does). On the outside it looked fine because I was great at hiding and acting. I didn't have the strength to leave or to ask someone for help, so I prayed and pleaded for God to have mercy and get me out of that relationship. Eventually she got married and moved out. I cried because I knew the Lord had saved me. I read my Bible and ran into Psalm 18. It was my story. A cord of death entangling me, the Lord heard my cry and was angry about what was happening to me. He cut through the heavens, reached down and took hold of me. He had saved me from my enemies who were too powerful for me. I was so grateful; grateful to have life back, to be free, and to receive real healing for the wounds that had been inflicted. Thank you, Lord, for delighting in me and saving me again.

1 Samuel 16:14—17:11; Acts 10:17-33; Luke 24:36-53

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Indiana (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Douglas Sparks; Bangor (*Wales*) The Rt Revd Andrew John

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. John D. Richmond, Bartonville; Birthday of Byron, husband of The Rev. Cynthia A. Sever, Alton.

Friday, July 12

Mark 1:1-13 *And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."* (v.11)

"I love you Sarah, and I'm so proud of you. Some people talk about doing the hard stuff, well, you're doing it. You're one of the few I know who will charge the gates of hell with a squirt gun. I'm so glad you're my daughter," my Dad said with tears.

I used to think God was really just a task-master, the heavenly manager, who was checking my spiritual production in order to decide whether or not He liked me. The Lord said to me, "If your earthly father loves you that much, how much more do I love you?" God makes it very clear that His love for Jesus is not based on production, but on who Jesus belongs too. And God isn't just pleased, He's *well* pleased. Not just a little—a deep well full of joy, acceptance, love, grace, and pleasure. After we accept Jesus as Messiah, repent from our old life, and follow him, these words of God are for us as well. You are God's precious child, whom He loves; with you He is well pleased.

1 Samuel 17:17-30; Psalms 16, 17; Acts 10:34-48

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Northern Luzon (*Philippines*) The Rt Revd Hilary Ayban

Pasikan; Banks & Torres (*Melanesia*) The Rt Revd Alfred Patterson Worek;

Kagera (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Darlington Bendankeha

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Steven T. and Jael Thorp, Champaign.

Saturday, July 13

Acts 11:1-18 *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said; 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"* (vv.15-17)

Peter said these words to the circumcised believers in Jerusalem after finding out the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit. Peter explained his visions, his trip to Cornelius's house, and how, while he was sharing about Jesus, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke in tongues and praised God. Talk about a paradigm shift. People who once were unclean are now family. People I'm prejudice against, I now lay down my life for. Isn't that like God? To take what we call unclean and give them the same gifts we received so we can't say we're better or more favored by God. God is big into family, all believers being one. So what if some of their experiences, traditions, worship styles, preaching methods, celebrations, or church buildings are different from ours. Who are we to stand in the way of God? I fear that I sometimes miss what the Holy Spirit is doing because it doesn't look like my

experiences. Lord, forgive us and give us eyes to see Your Holy Spirit working so we, too, can praise You.

1 Samuel 17:31-49; Psalms 20, 21; Mark 1:14-28

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Kajiado (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Gadiel Katanga Lenini; Kajo-Keji (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Murye Modi; Kamango (*Congo*) The Rt Revd Sabiti Tibafa Daniel

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Very Rev. Mark E. Evans, Lincoln, and The Rev. Thomas D. Patton, Traverse City, MI.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Conner Bennett's birthday.

by Sarah Scanlan

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

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.