

Good News Daily

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Sunday, August 25

John 8:12-20 *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (v.12 NIV)

From the physical to the spiritual, the contrast of the light and the dark is striking. In a painting, the stronger the contrast between light and dark, the more interesting the painting becomes. Daily the world cycles between periods of light (daytime) and periods of darkness (nighttime). If you walk into your house at night, you reach for a light source so that you don't stumble around in the dark. Walking in darkness can result in injury to your body or maybe breakage of items you bump into! Understanding these basic physical concepts of light and dark lays the groundwork for understanding the spiritual concepts of light and darkness.

Jesus is the light of the world. If we are true followers of Jesus, we need never live in spiritual darkness again. He promises us this and he never breaks his promises. The longer we walk with him, the more we begin to grasp the reality of the spiritual contrast. Jesus opens our eyes ever wider as we continue walking, so that we begin to realize how greatly blessed we are to have this light within us. As it says in Psalm 119:105, "your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Thanks be to God for giving us the light of life!

2 Samuel 24:1-2, 10-25; Psalms 146, 147; Galatians 3:23—4:7

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Anglican Church of South America, The Most Revd Gregory James Venables - Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Argentina

DIOCESAN CYCLE: We pray for all priests and lay people in the Diocese of Peru, Springfield and Tabora who labor in love unceasingly for the glory of our Lord, the King of Kings; Pray for Diocese of Springfield Cursillo 37, Toddhall.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Kathryn Morris' birthday.

Monday, August 26

Acts 26:1-23 *"I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."* (vv.17b-18)

Paul is quoting the words that Jesus spoke to him after his conversion on the Damascus road; this is part of Paul's defense, spoken to King Agrippa as he pleads for his release from prison. As with each person who shares the gospel on behalf of

the Lord Jesus, Paul explains that his job is to open eyes and turn nonbelievers from darkness to the light. That is always the objective: a spiritual awakening to understand that darkness is the domain of Satan, but light is God's arena.

Paul's very life illustrates the contrast of light and dark, God and Satan. Blind to the truth for many years, Paul went about persecuting the early believers until one day Jesus blinded him with his brightness and brought about Paul's conversion. Like Paul, I was blind to the truth of the gospel but, unlike Paul, I never persecuted others for their belief. I went to church fairly regularly, but didn't want to hear about the need to be born again! I was stumbling in the dark and didn't even realize it. But the gracious and merciful Father sent some wonderful people into my life, and they literally prayed me into the kingdom.

Thank You, Lord, for Your amazing grace, patience, and love.

1 Kings 1:5-31; Psalms 1, 2, 3; Mark 13:14-27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Olo (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Tandema Obede; Busan (*Korea*) The Most Revd Onesimus Dongsin Park; Kigezi (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd George Bagamuhunda

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of The Rev. Can. Robert B. Koehler, San Antonio, TX.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Valerie Schaeffer's birthday.

Tuesday, August 27

Mark 13:28-37 "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*" (v.31)

I am in my seventies now, and I have had a number of friends and family members pass away. The "passing away" of human life is a given; we all will eventually. Jesus is saying here that at some point in time, heaven and earth as we know it will also pass away. Hard to imagine that, isn't it?

However, the words of Jesus will *never* pass away. They are life and they are eternal. They are the light in the darkness. Isaiah 20:8 says, "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." In Peter's first letter, he quotes this very verse from Isaiah. The word of the Lord endures forever, just like his love. Psalm 136 repeats these words no less than 26 times: "His love endures forever."

When I ponder Jesus saying his words are going to endure forever, I connect this with his love. They are both eternal; they will never end! That is quite a comforting thought, especially in light of the knowledge that my life on this earth will end. Because I have been saved by the grace of God, I know that I will ultimately live forever in Jesus, basking in the light of his words and love.

Thank you, blessed Jesus, that I will always be able to count on you.

1 Kings 1:38—2:4; Psalms 5,6; Acts 26:24—27:8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Olympia (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Gregory Rickel; Busoga (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Paul Moses Samson Naimanhye
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Mark Dirksen, husband of The Rev. Beth H. Maynard, Champaign; Wedding anniversary of The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. and Brenda Martins of Chicago.
ST. MATTHEW'S: Loren Dyson's birthday.

Wednesday, August 28

1 Kings 3:1-15 *I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart... Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.* (vv.12, 13)

This is a wonderful example of God granting a request and then giving so much more than the person asked—exceedingly and abundantly more. (See Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:20.) God seems to be in the business of lavishly rewarding the pure in heart; when one does the right thing with the right motive, God notices.

Solomon was told in a dream that he could ask the Lord for whatever he wanted, and Solomon requested, "a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong"(v.9). Solomon, David's son, became king when his father died, and since he was young and inexperienced and wanted to be a good king, he asked the Lord for what he knew he would need in order to rule righteously. I would guess that he was quite overwhelmed by God's answer. In addition to wealth and honor, God went on to say that if Solomon walked in God's ways, obeyed his statutes and commands as his father had done, he would be given a long life as well. And, as always, God fulfilled his promises. Solomon became, through God's power, the wisest man who ever lived.

Thank You, Lord, that You are a God of surprises, giving those who love You more than they ask.

Psalm 119:1-24; Acts 27:9-26; Mark 14:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Omu-Aran (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Philip Adeyemo; Butare (*Rwanda*) The Rt Revd Nathan Gasatura; Butere (*Kenya*) The Rt Revd Timothy Wambunya

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Gerald W. Raschke, Springfield; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Donald H. and Rikke Langlois, Chandler, AZ.

ST. MATTHEW'S: Charlie Casperson and Janet Hoffman's birthdays and Sandy & Bob Kohlhasse' wedding anniversary.

Thursday August 29

Psalm 18:1-20 *In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. (v.6)*

I marvel at the constancy of God, always hearing my pleas for help, no matter how often I cry out. There is no request I could make that He wouldn't listen to and respond. Sometimes I ask for a specific outcome and the answer is "no." Often, I find that I keep coming back with the same plea, over and over again! Does that cause God to stop up His ears? Absolutely not. He always listens to His children.

How blessed we are to have a heavenly Father who always listens, not like earthly fathers (and mothers) who can pretend they are listening when they really aren't; or like the father who hears and then chooses not to help because he thinks he is too busy to be bothered. God is not like the young mother who gets so impatient with her children's chatter that she just shuts them out. Even if my cries to God seem bothersome, the fact that I choose to come to Him for help does please Him. Our heavenly Father longs for us to open our hearts to Him.

There is both peace and comfort in understanding this characteristic of our Lord. Thank you, Jesus, for always hearing the cries of my heart.

1 Kings 3:16-28; Acts 27:27-44; Mark 14:12-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: On the Lake (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Chijioke Oti; Buye (*Burundi*) The Rt Revd Sixbert Macumi

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Dr. Arnold and Sharon Hoffman, Sebring, FL.

Friday, August 30

Psalm 16 *Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. (v.4)*

Seeking elusive fulfillment seems to be true of people in every generation. I think that is because we have been created with a void in our hearts that can only be filled by God, and when we "run after other gods," we are trying desperately to fill that void. It is not until we come face to face with the one true God, that we can begin to see the folly of our futile search.

In my lifetime, I have watched people who never found peace for their souls, and it was precisely because they were focusing on "other gods" which never satisfied the longing of their hearts. Instead, as the psalmist says, their sorrows increased, and on a variety of fronts—estrangements between friends and/or family, divorces, rebellious children, disappearing wealth, jobs lost, etc. No matter the particular circumstances, no peace was found.

However, for some people who "hit rock bottom," they finally came to know Jesus—the one and only source of peace and lasting fulfillment. As he said in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."

If we don't have this peace, all we must do is ask for it with a believing and repentant heart and it can be ours. Thank you, Jesus, for this wonderful gift.

1 Kings 5:1—6:1, 7; Psalm 17; Acts 28:1-16; Mark 14:27-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: On the Niger (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Owen Chidozie Nwokolo; Byumba (*Rwanda*) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Ngendahayo; Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh (*Ireland*) The Rt Revd Ferran Glenfield

DIOCESAN CYCLE: The Rev. James Muriuki, Cape Girardeau, MO., Ordination to the Priesthood; Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Dr. Gregory A. and Nada Tournoux, Springfield.

Saturday, August 31

1 Kings 7:51—8:21 *“The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.”* (v.20)

Solomon is speaking to the “whole assembly of Israel,” gathered in Jerusalem for the dedication of the magnificent temple he has built for the Lord. We are told earlier in this book that it took 7 years to build and that thousands of men and artisans worked on it. Solomon arranged to have fine cedar wood sent from Lebanon, stones cut and dressed in quarries, gold to cover the floors and overlay much of the wood furnishings, large carved doors made of olive wood, and many other accessories made of gold and bronze. It must have been dazzling to behold.

I imagine Solomon was extraordinarily pleased to know he had done what the Lord had promised, building this glorious temple. His father, David, had wanted to build a temple, but God had said “no,” because His plan was for Solomon to build it. The Lord's plans are often not our plans, but they are always best, and He never breaks His promises. The Lord is like none other.

Thank You, Lord, for revealing Yourself and Your promises through Your word, the Bible, and Your son, Jesus.

Psalms 20, 21; Acts 28:17-31; Mark 14:43-52

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Kimberley & Kuruman (*Southern Africa*) The Rt Revd Oswald Swartz; Kindu (*Congo*) The Most Revd Zacharie Masimango Katanda (*Primate*); Kinkiizi (*Uganda*) The Rt Revd Dan Zoreka

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, keep us in your power.

by Anna Cash

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

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Daniel T., Justin P.

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.