

*Good News Daily*

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**Sunday, September 22**

2 Kings 4:8-37 *She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out. (v.21 NIV)*

Poor woman. She rejoiced in finally becoming a mother, only to lose her son. Perhaps you have never lost a child, but I imagine there have been times you felt God has blessed you until, for some reason, it was unfairly snatched away. Did you whine like the proverbial baby whose candy had been taken from him? Or did you respond in faith as this woman did?

Notice she laid her dead son on the bed of the man of God—not upon what had been his pallet, or even on her own. She took her sorrows and problems to the source. Then she shut the door and went out. In other words, she left it in God’s hands. She had the faith to seek out Elisha and tell him that she wouldn’t leave him, no matter what, because she trusted he would help her.

I deeply admire her. Next time I face unfairness and disappointment, I will remember her story and act more faithfully. I won’t push God away in hurt or anger, but instead seek His presence, lay it at His feet, and have hope in whatever He does next, trusting in Him.

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 9:10-31; Luke 3:7-18

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Church of the Province of Uganda, The Most Revd Stanley Ntagali - Archbishop of Uganda & and Bishop of Kampala

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. James Chapel, Marion; Ilalwansimba Parish, Tanzania, Rev. Joel Kahindi; The Mission of St. Andrew, District of Puente Piedra, Lima, Peru, The Rev. Benjamin Salas, Priest in Charge; The Rev. David J. Boase, Godfrey, Ordination to the Priesthood.

*ST. MATTHEW’S:* Theresa Garrison’s birthday.

**Monday, September 23**

Psalm 80 *Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. (v.3)*

This phrase is repeated twice more through the psalm, almost as if it is a chorus. In each stanza, David lays his pleas before God then sings this sentence in response. In other words, his reactions to the bad situations are a lot like the Shumanite woman’s in the lesson yesterday. He takes his problems to God, and then acknowledges that God is the one who can rectify it.

But before the situation can be resolved, we must first be restored. Our faith needs a re-boot. Otherwise, we will continue to wring our hands and wallow in the mire of our despair instead of looking to God for help.

Today, I hear a lot of Christians griping about how bad things are getting in the world. It is as if they have resigned themselves to the fact things are hopeless. May as well hole up with the remnant faithful and lock the doors.

But that is not what the biblical examples show us, is it? Salvation comes from, not only acknowledging the sin, but seeking the only one who can absolve it. Lord, let Your face shine upon us so we can reflect Your loving forgiveness and righteousness, even to those who mock or scorn us. As it says in Psalm 51:10, “renew a right spirit within us.”

2 Kings 5:1-19, 1 Corinthians 4:8-21, Matthew 5:21-26

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Panama (*Central America*) The Rt Revd Julio Murray Thompson (*Primate*); Central Pennsylvania (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Audrey Scanlan; Kivu (*Rwanda*) The Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* God, fill us with your grace, for the sake of your anointed Son.

## **Tuesday, September 24**

1 Corinthians 5:1-8 *Hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.* (v.5)

Does this verse bristle the hairs on the back of your neck? It did mine. What about forgiveness? There is more to the story.

In 2 Corinthians 2:7, Paul approves of the man being restored into the community of the faithful. His temporary excommunication made the man realize the errors of his ways and seek repentance. Remember, this person had already received Jesus as his Savior and had been indwelled with the Holy Spirit. Paul knew the Holy Spirit would work on his heart once he was shoved back into the world (handed over to Satan). His removal also kept his bad influence from tainting the newly converted. Tough love.

Sometimes we have to leave people to their own devices so they can then realize the error of their ways. That doesn't mean we stop praying for them. And as the Corinthian church discovered, it doesn't mean we cannot accept them back when they admit their actions were wrong. I think this man knew the congregation still loved him, as did God. Otherwise, he wouldn't have crawled back with his tail between his legs.

May we exemplify this first century church by practicing tough love, and yet never withhold that love out of residual resentment but instead open our arms to each prodigal who returns.

2 Kings 5:19-27; Psalm 78:1-39; Matthew 5:27-37

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pankshin (*Nigeria*) The Rt Revd Olumuyiwa Ajayi; Central Philippines (*Philippines*) The Rt Revd Dixie Copanut Taclobao  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev. Cn. Dr. George E. Pence, Edwardsville; Birthday of Gina, wife of The Rev Charles Reischman, Littleton, CO.; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Paul R. and Christine Dicks, Pewaukee, WI.

### **Wednesday, September 25**

Matthew 5:38-48 *“But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.”* (v.39)

At first glance, this teaching of Jesus may seem to be the opposite of Paul’s admonition yesterday. However, there is as much of a difference as there is a similarity.

The difference is that the man who had been sexually immoral was a believer. He knew better, but succumbed to temptation. This passage doesn’t distinguish between a believer and non-believer. Another difference is this: Jesus is telling the person who was offended or harmed what they should personally do. Paul was asking for discipline by the body of believers on behalf of the offended innocent.

However, that is not to suggest that, once abused, we should open ourselves to that abuse again. It is saying to give the person a second chance to do what is right. To not walk away or shove them out of our lives forever, harboring negative feelings of unforgiveness. That is the similarity between the verse today and the one yesterday.

The Lord’s Prayer specifies that we forgive those who trespass against us just as Jesus forgave on the cross. By turning the other cheek, we diffuse their evil intent and also offer reconciliation. A lot harder to do than lashing out in retaliation. It leaves the door open a crack in case they want to repent.

2 Kings 6:1-23; Psalm 119:97-120; 1 Corinthians 5:9—6:8

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Panyana Area (*South Sudan*) The Rt Revd Seme Nigo Abinda; Central Solomons (*Melanesia*) The Rt Revd Ben Seka; Central Tanganyika (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Dickson Chilongani  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Trinity, Jacksonville, Consecration of present church building, 1921.

### **Thursday, September 26**

2 Kings 9:1-16 *When you get there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi. Go to him, get him away from his companions and take him into an inner room.* (v.2)

The servant had a special message to give Jehu, and it was for his ears only. After telling him he was to be king, he ran away as Elisha had instructed. Why?

Because by doing so, the servant in essence committed treason. His life could have been in danger. Even so, the servant did as he was told. He delivered the message, trusting his master knew best.

Sometimes, God may call us to say something we'd rather not say. It might be the Holy Spirit prodding us to speak up when we see a brother or sister heading down the wrong path. Or, it might be to stand up against a heretical interpretation to the word.

Here is the take away lesson. Do it in private. Don't gang up on the person who is to receive the message, and don't call them out in front of their friends. Obey godly instruction, say your peace as prompted by the Spirit, and then back off. Let the person receiving the message decide the course of action they will take. You have done your job by obediently conveying the point. Leave the rest to God.

Psalms 83, 146, 147; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Papua New Guinea (*Papua New Guinea*) The Most Revd Allan Migi (*Primate*);

Central Zambia (*Central Africa*) The Rt Revd Derek Gary Kamukwamba

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* St. Bartholomew's, Granite City, Consecration of present church building, 1906; Birthday of Terry, wife of The Rev Can. Robert B. Koehler, San Antonio, TX.

## **Friday, September 27**

Psalm 88 *Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?* (v.14)

Ever felt that way? Probably we all have. I once read a sermon on the ten reasons God might turn away from our prayers. They included un-confessed sin—holy silence so we could contemplate what we have done wrong, and in order to draw us closer to Him again for help.

But in fact, our Lord never turns away, does He? He may step back; however, once we have received Him in our hearts, He is there for keeps whether our feelings tell us so or not.

Decades ago I saw a bumper sticker that said, "If God isn't in your life, guess who moved?" It is easy to point fingers at someone else for our situations, even at God, instead "fessing up" and acknowledging there are consequences for our actions. David may have felt as if he was being put in an unfair place, but truth be told, he had sinned with Bathsheba. Deep down David knew God had not left him, otherwise we wouldn't have this psalm he wrote as he cried out to the Lord. God won't leave us, either.

2 Kings 9:17-37; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9; Matthew 6:7-15

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Paraguay (*South America*) The Rt Revd Peter John Henry Bartlett; Central Zimbabwe (*Central Africa*) The Revd Ignatius Makumbe; Kobe (*Japan*) The Rt Revd Augustine Naoaki Kobayashi

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* The Rev Cn Dale D. Coleman, Belleville, Ordination to the Priesthood.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Bobbi Meihofer's birthday.

### **Saturday, September 28**

Matthew 6:19-24 "*The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.*" (v.22)

Recall the song, *Be Careful Little Eyes What You See?* You probably sung it in Sunday school or listened to your kids singing it in the back seat on the way home from church. It is also said that the eyes are the window into the soul. Once we see something, it is hard to erase it from our minds. Psychologists say it can actually change the chemical reactions in our brain.

There is a lot out there in plain sight we should not be seeing these days. Porn, even among Christians, is epidemic for men—and more increasingly, for women. It reduces the love bonding to a selfish act of pleasure-seeking at the expense of another person. Soon, the person into porn can no longer be satisfied with the love of their partner without fantasizing it is with someone else.

The same can be said for the violence on TV and in the popular videos being played. Maimed and murdered victims are seen as targets. Are we, as a society, becoming immune to the viciousness of victimization?

This next week, pay attention to what you watch. Don't be afraid to close your eyes and turn away or turn it off. Don't let the darkness in. Stay in the light where you can see others as creatures loved by their God and treat each with dignity and respect.

2 Kings 11:1-20a; Psalms 87, 90; 1 Corinthians 7:10-24

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Patna (*North India*) The Most Revd Dr Philip Marandih; Chandigarh (*North India*) The Rt Revd Younas Massey

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of the Rev. Mark S. Winward, Camp Lejeune, NC.; Wedding anniversary of The Very Rev. Ian C. and Catherine Wetmore, Lebanon.

*ST. MATTHEW'S:* Karyn Smith and Robin Levine's birthdays.

*by Julie B Cosgrove*

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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.