

Sunday, October 6

Acts 12:1-17 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. (v.5)

Things happen when the church prays. I wish we would all take God at His word. He tells us to pray because He wants to unleash power in our lives and in our circumstances. I am not a big bumper sticker fan, but I have seen one that reads “Prayer Works!” The simplicity of this is true. Prayer is not magic; instead it is entrusting who we are to who God is. It is a relinquishing of control, believing that the answers He gives are the best ones for our life. Whether it is a simple request for a peaceful night’s sleep or for the seemingly impossible. God’s desire is for us to believe Him and trust in His power. He desires to prove Himself to us in our relationship with Him. Prayer works because God acts when we pray.

When the church met to pray for Peter, an angel suddenly appeared to Peter and led him out of prison. Can you see the direct connection between the prayer and the sudden answer to their prayer?

Let us take God at His word. Things happen when we pray. We believe, we hope, and we watch for His answers.

2 Kings 20:1-21; Psalm 118; Luke 7:11-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for the Church in Wales, The Most Revd John Davies - Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Swansea & Brecon.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Springfield, The Ven. Shawn Denney, Vicar; Ilalwansimba Mission, Tanzania,,: Rev. Joel Kahindi, Vicar; the Mission of Santas María y Martha de Betania, Ilo, Peru, Rev'd Victor Condori, Vicar.

ST. MATTHEWS: Birthdays of Kelly Gray and Caroline Leighton

Monday, October 7

Psalm 106:1-18 Then they believed his promises and sang his praises. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold. (vv.12-13)

Hear the passage today. They believed...They forgot.

Maybe I am not alone. Have you ever walked to another part of your house to do something, then found that you are trying to remember what you came to do? After standing in the room bewildered for a while, finally something jogs your memory and you carry on. Likewise, we Christians also tend to forget God’s place in our hearts, especially when we are busy and our lives are going well. It frustrates me to forget God.

God must sigh at our short memories. But the good news is He knows what it takes to get our attention. A rainbow, a dove, a burning bush, a pastor, a friend, a verse, a loaf of bread, a cup of wine. God is active through His Holy Spirit in His pursuit to keep us remembering! Look for the Spirit moving around us. And when he jogs our memory, be glad, and thankful. God has the best counsel and direction for our lives.

2 Kings 21:1-18; 1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1; Matthew 8:28-34

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Phulbani (*North India*) The Rt Revd Bijay Nayak; Christchurch (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*) Peter Carrell; Kolhapur (*North India*) The Rt Revd Sandeep Suresh Vibhute.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of The Rev. David L. and Mary Ellen Wells, Springfield.

Tuesday, October 8

2 Kings 22:1-13 *He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.* (v.2)

A friend of mine, researching her family heritage, was astonished to find that her distant relatives came to this country on the Mayflower. Another friend discovered he was related to John Quincy Adams. As Christians we have a spiritual heritage as well. We are connected to all those who have planted the seeds of faith in our lives.

One of those connected to our spiritual heritage is King Josiah. This passage speaks about Josiah, who was the last godly king before the exile. From the day he heard what was written in the Book of the Law, his heart was convicted and he set out to turn the hearts of his people back to God. When I read this description of the spiritual character of Josiah, I wonder what people will say about me when I am gone from this earth. Would someone be able to put my name in front of the above passage? “Robin, she did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of [her heavenly Father], not turning aside to the right or to the left.” Could someone put *your* name in place of King Josiah’s?

Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22; Matthew 9:1-8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pittsburgh (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Dorsey W M McConnell;

Chubu (*Japan*) The Rt Revd Peter Ichiro Shibusawa.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, bless the work that we do; bless it, and keep us in your power.

Wednesday, October 9

Psalm 119:145-176 *See how I love your precepts; preserve my life, LORD, in accordance with your love.*” (v.159)

Preserving ourselves...we have made it a billion-dollar industry in our attempt to prevent the inevitable. Who likes change anyway? I, myself, stroll down the health and beauty aisle in the grocery store. It does become a little comical to me as those “energy words” jump out at me. You name it. Any given “age-buster” product claims to plump, shrink, fade, tighten, cover, shield, strengthen, and prevent. I once saw an Internet ad offering to preserve your body by Cryonic Suspension for \$60,000 or \$40 a month for life. More surprising is the number of people who have actually signed up for this deal! When you do not know the Savior, there is great fear of change—and greater fear of death.

The truth is this: “Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16). It is only through the word of God and His saving grace that we are being preserved and transformed into His likeness. God’s preservation is not for the moment but forever.

2 Kings 22:14—23:3; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34; Matthew 9:9-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Polynesia (*Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia*) The Most Revd Fereimi Cama, The Rt Revd Henry Bull, The Rt Revd Gabriel Sharma, The Rt Revd Afa Vaka; Clogher (*Ireland*) The Rt Revd John McDowell; Cochin (*South India*) The Rt Revd Baker Ninan Fenn.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Anniversary of the Consecration of The Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign.

Thursday, October 10

Matthew 9:18-26 *He said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.* (v.24)

Jesus does the impossible, bringing life out of death. Can you see the scene? Musicians and mourners were hired to play and lament in the mourning ceremony for this girl. Loads of money was spent. A lot of food was prepared. People traveled far to be there. A big crowd gathered. When Jesus proclaimed, “The girl is not dead but asleep,” there was only unbelief and mocking laughter.

Our enemy is a smooth operator—especially in a crowd. Have you ever been in a crowd and felt the temptation to be lured away from God’s will? I have. Have you ever been tempted to believe that God does not work incredible works today? The Devil cheers when he can neutralize our bold witness in a crowd. He enjoys slowly unraveling our faith with seeds of unbelief.

The crowd did laugh at Jesus. They did not know Jesus like we do. Even though our faith might waiver in a crowd Jesus, will not be swayed. No matter how

the culture, our friends, or even the church may pressure us, we need to put our complete trust in Jesus and his ways.

Lord Jesus, we give our loyalty to you. Keep us from falling into the unbelief of this world.

2 Kings 23:4-25; Psalms 131, 132, 133; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Popondota (*Papua New Guinea*) The Rt Revd Lindsley Ihove; Coimbatore (*South India*) The Rt Revd Timothy Ravinder.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mary's, Robinson, Admitted to the Diocese, 1956; All Saints, Morton, dedication of church building, 1965; Birthday of The Rev. Robert D. Harmon, Mt. Vernon.

Friday, October 11

Matthew 9:27-34 *Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." (v.29a)*

The two blind men in this passage could not see Jesus or see his miracles, but they had been listening to Jesus and they followed him down the road. Jesus restored their sight because of their faith in him.

Years ago, I volunteered to be a part of a group that read to blind children. Because they could not see the pages of our book, we would enhance the stories using their other four senses. If we came to a part in the book that said, "Then Mrs. McGregor baked a delicious apple pie," we would cut up apple slices and pass them around the room. The children sat amazingly still. Story hour was their favorite time of day. Sure, their eyes were off in different directions, but their other senses were attentive, and they hung on every word. I learned a great deal about listening and hearing during my time of volunteering.

Paul wrote, "Faith comes by hearing" (Romans 10:17). The blind men's faith came by listening and hanging on Jesus' every word. If we want to have faith, we must find the time to listen to Jesus. May it be that we, too, find it important to hang on his every word.

2 Kings 23:36—24:17; Psalms 140, 142; 2 Corinthians 12:12-26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Port Moresby (*Papua New Guinea*) The Rt Revd Denny Bray Guka; Colombia (*The Episcopal Church*) The Rt Revd Francisco Duque; Kollam - Kottarakkara (*South India*) The Rt Revd Dr Oommen George.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Have mercy on us, Lord. Heal our lives and your world.
ST. MATTHEWS: Birthday of Kia Griffin

Saturday, October 12

Matthew 9:35—10:4 *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (v.37)*

At times when I am at a football game or walking through a crowded place, I wonder what Jesus would think if he were there. Could he see into the hearts of people as he passed by? Sometimes my heart is heavy wondering how many souls around me could call Jesus their Savior. How many would know about Jesus or care? In this passage, I think Jesus' heart was heavy. He makes an unusual plea to his disciples when he asks them to pray for workers. He asks for prayer because praying will open the way for God to plant, in the hearts of men and women, the desire to serve Him.

In the past I thought this call for workers was only a call to overseas missions. But now I see this plea differently. It is a plea for all of us to get to work. I believe the work is to keep our eyes open, see the harvest, and to find ways to gather in the hearts of those around us. Crowds now are a reminder to me. I say an earnest, yet quick, prayer: "God send people to touch the lives of those in the crowds and to help me do my part in the harvest for souls. There is much work to be done."

Jeremiah 35:1-19; Psalms 137, 144; 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:3

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Port Sudan (*Sudan*) The Rt Revd Abdu Elnur Kodi; Colombo (*Ceylon*) The Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey; Kondoia (*Tanzania*) The Rt Revd Given Gaula.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the sun that always rises, but never sets.

by Robin Jagoe

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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.