

Good News Daily

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Sunday, February 16

Genesis 29:20-35 *So Jacob served seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her.* (v.20 NASB)

I believe all Scripture is included in the Bible for a purpose. God honors love and commitment and working hard for them, which is why this beautiful verse is included.

I met a former executive at a party recently who shared his beautiful story with me. Although he was married, he was focused on work and himself and was somewhat disengaged from his family and wife. His wife became severely ill and was permanently unable to care for herself. It would have been easy for this man to find an expensive nursing home to provide care for her so that he could continue his life without too much disruption. He decided to quit his C-Suite career to care for his wife. He gave it up to help with her most basic needs. His eyes welled up with tears (as did mine) as he shared how deeply he fell in love with his wife again before she died.

I believe the Lord blessed this man and his family because of his commitment to them and willingness to put them before his desires.

Psalms 66, 67; 1 Timothy 3:14—4:10; Mark 10:23-31

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, The Most Revd Albert Chama - Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Church of the Redeemer, Cairo, The Rev. James K. Muriuki, Priest in Charge; Goweko Parish: The Rev. Tiyishime Amon, Tabora, Tanzania; The Mission of St. Matthew, San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru, The Rt. Rev. Jorge Águilar, and The Rev. Jerry Acosta.

Monday, February 17

John 9:1-17 *Therefore, some of the Pharisees were saying, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath....”* (v.16)

Jesus met a blind man while walking. He spits on the ground, made a paste with the dirt and his saliva, then wiped it over the blind man’s eyes. Then Jesus said, “Go and wash your eyes in the pool,” which the man did. He returned to Jesus, his sight restored.

Those who witnessed this act had various reactions. The Pharisees’ response was this couldn’t be a righteous act as it occurred on the Sabbath—Jews weren’t allowed to do anything on the Sabbath according to the law.

The Pharisees dismissed the healing because it didn't fit into the box they had put God in. Making a healing balm out of holy spittle and dirt and wiping it across someone's eyes is unorthodox! We can't put God in a box with our ideas of what He does and who He is. We'll miss the miracles. He is Lord God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Surely, He is capable of performing miracles in our lives just as the blind man's.

Genesis 30:1-24; Psalm 89:1-18; 1 John 1:1-10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maine (The Episcopal Church), The Right Revd Stephen Lane; Texas, The Right Revd Andrew Doyle.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

Tuesday, February 18

Genesis 31:1-24 ...*For I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.* (v.12)

Jacob drew the short straw when it comes to fathers-in-law. He asked Laban for permission to marry his daughter Rachel. Laban agreed if Jacob served him for seven years. Then Laban played a shell game and gave his older daughter Leah to Jacob during the wedding instead of Rachel. Laban eventually gave Rachel to Jacob for seven years more service. Not only was Laban an ungracious, sneaky father-in-law, he was also Jacob's boss.

Jacob served him honorably as part of his service to the Lord. And the Lord lets Jacob know He has seen the maltreatment. God knows what a jerk Laban is. He has seen all the shenanigans and Jacob's frustration. He blesses Jacob with a large family and riches.

Most of us can relate to Jacob. We've had a boss who's a jerk, or an in-law who doesn't treat us like family. We are called to serve and honor these people as part of how we serve the Lord. I will take comfort in knowing that the Lord sees our struggles and will bless us as He chooses.

Psalms 97, 99,100; 1 John 2:1-11; John 9:18-41

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Maiwut (South Sudan), The Right Revd Peter Gatbel Kunen Lual; The Arctic (Canada), The Right Revd David Parsons; Haiti (The Episcopal Church), The Right Revd Jean Zache Duracin.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they gather for the Pre-Lenten Retreat, King's House, Belleville.

Wednesday, February 19

Psalm 109 ...*But I am I in prayer.* (v.4b)

David had a lot going on when he wrote his psalms. People had turned against him—slandering him, wanting to take his position, his riches, his life. He turns to God.

I have struggles in my life, “But I am in prayer.” The *American Standard Version* says, “But I give myself unto prayer.” For wisdom. For protection. For forgiveness. For miracles. For guidance. For intercession. For healing. For thanksgiving. For whatever is going on.

I want to remind myself of this when I start the downward spiral of worry and despair: “But I give myself unto prayer.” Whether it is a one-liner said in the moment, my morning devotional time, or extended periods of fasting and prayer, I will go to the Lord. This is will say, “But I am in prayer.”

Genesis 31:25-50; Psalm 101; 1 John 2:12-17; John 10:1-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Makamba (Burundi), The Most Revd Martin Blaise Nyaboho (Primate);

South Carolina (The Episcopal Church), The Right Revd Gladstone Adams.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Pray for the Clergy of the Diocese as they conclude their Pre-Lenten Retreat, King’s House, Belleville.

Thursday, February 20

Psalm 105:1-22 *Remember His wonders which He has done, His marvels and the judgements uttered by His mouth. (v.5)*

The devotional asked me to review my life and how the Lord had worked in it, including times when my prayers hadn’t been answered as I wanted. Looking back through my life, I saw the promises the Lord made to me, how He worked, and how, in His providence, situations turned out far better than I could have imagined. I was humbled, and in awe, to see how the Lord had worked in me and blessed me.

This psalm is all about seeking the Lord and remembering His good works and sharing them with others. I love hearing how the Lord has moved in other’s lives. I usually get a little overcome with tears of joy.

I challenge you to review your life and how the Lord has worked in it. I bet you won’t be disappointed. Don’t forget to share it with someone else so they can be overcome with tears of joy too.

Genesis 32:3-21; 1 John 2:18-29; John 10:19-30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Makueni (Kenya), The Right Revd Francis Mboya Matui; The Murray (Australia), The Right Revd Keith Dalby; The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Spain), The Right Revd Carlos López-Lozano.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, set us free from the bondage of our sins.

Friday, February 21

1 John 3:1-10 *By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious; anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God; nor the one who does not love his brother. (v.10)*

This verse has a lot of meat on it but let's just focus on the last part. It is easy these days to make your opinions known via social media. Daily I see people who profess to love the Lord but hate others who aren't like them. They hate people who aren't of the same color, don't have the same sexual preferences or religious beliefs, or aren't American citizens. The anger and depth of dislike is astounding.

God created all of us. We are all sinful and fall short of the glory of God. We all need a savior—one that He created for all of us. God calls us to love one another and glorify Him by sharing the good news of Jesus, our savior, with others. We can't lead people to the Lord if we look at them with disdain. We need to see people the way the Lord does—as his precious creation whom He loves.

Genesis 32:22—33:17; Psalm 102; John 10:31-42

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Makurdi (Nigeria), The Right Revd Nathan Nyitar Inyom; Thika (Kenya), The Right Revd Julius Njuguna Wanyoike.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Sharon, wife of The Rev Dr. Arnold R Hoffman, Sebring, FL

ST. MATTHEW'S: Ron Gordon's birthday

Saturday, February 22

John 11:1-16 *That's when Thomas, the one called the Twin, said to his companions, "Come along. We might as well die with him."* (v.16 The Message)

The disciple Thomas reminds me of Eeyore, Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend. Eeyore is pessimistic, doubtful, gloomy; a real downer.

Upon hearing the news that Lazarus has died, Jesus tells the disciples he will raise Lazarus from the dead—well not in so many words. He hints at it. Thomas and the other disciples have seen Jesus perform many miracles. Hanging out with Jesus, you never know what's going to happen next, and so much of it is unbelievable! But Gloomy Gus huffs depressingly and says, "Let's go, we'll probably die but let's go with him."

Is Thomas afraid of what's going to happen? Is he so used to witnessing Jesus' miracles that he has become blasé to them? There is a reason Thomas stays part of Jesus' group. Something in him wants what Jesus offers, but there is little faith or trust in Thomas' outlook.

Lord Jesus, you promise us abundant life if we follow you. Forgive us when we as believers act doubtful or pessimistic like Eeyore. We want to put our hope in you and be excited to see what you'll do next.

Genesis 35:1-20; Psalm 107:33-43, 108; 1 John 3:11-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Malabar (South India), The Right Revd Royce Manoj Victor; Thoothukudi - Nazareth (South India), The Right Revd Samuel

Devasahayam Ebenezer Clement; Hanuato'o (Melanesia), The Right Revd Alfred Karibongi.

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Michael, husband of The Rev Christine C Hopkins, Champaign

ST. MATTHEW'S: Lynn Gray's birthday

by Mara McClain

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

Pray for the Faithful Departed: Charlie C. and Steve W.

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.