

Good News Daily

**Volume
XX**

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Sunday, May 10

Luke 4:16-30 *They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.* (vv.29-30 NRSV)

Leaving home and taking up a new way of life is difficult. In the case of Jesus in this passage, the people of his village had enormous expectations for him and what he could provide them. And yet, Jesus clearly told them that they were going to be disappointed. There have been a number of times in my life when I have metaphorically (and geographically) left home. Sometimes it has been to meet the expectations of others, and sometimes to avoid them. Change is hard.

For me, the key element in this Scripture occurs in verse 18 when Jesus reads the words of the prophet Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...” Believing that the Spirit is with me and guiding my actions has become the new reality that I am attempting to live. Previously, when I tried to meet the expectations of others, it occasionally worked out in the way I had planned. But other times, when I thought I had failed, God intervened and produced a new result. Now, with faith in the Holy Spirit, I am less worried about meeting the expectations of the world and more inclined to let God perform His work in me.

Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Psalms 24, 29; Hebrews 12:1-14
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya, The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Thomas, Glen Carbon, The Rt. Rev. Anthony Clavier, Vicar; Igagala Parish, Tanzania: Rev. Samwel Zakayo; The Mission of Tariachi, Santisima Cruz De Maravillas, Peru; Rev'd Ruben Mancilla; Rev'd Luis Vizcarra, , Matthew B. Kemp, Chicago, ordination to the Priesthood; M. Joan Coleman, Roseburg, Oregon, ordination to the Diaconate.

Monday, May 11

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (v.13)*

The great mystery, the great hope, the great promise—that we shall be with the Lord forever. These are words of comfort and encouragement that sustain and assure me that grief will not have the final word. Like the ancient Thessalonians, I have loved ones that have died before the coming of Christ. And I grieve for their loss. However, this grief is not something that leads to remorse and depression. Knowing and believing in Christ puts me in a right relationship with God. The time between my birth and death is not an empty space. It is a life that is full with the Spirit that informs me that salvation and heaven and the love of God are present and available. As we say at our church, if you want to go to heaven, go *now*.

Leviticus 16:1-19; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Muranga South (Kenya) The Rt Revd Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru, Zaki-Biam (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jezreel Vandeh , Ikwerre (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Blessing Enyindah

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord, help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light.

Tuesday, May 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. (v.2)*

I never understood the preachers (and there have been many) who claimed they had determined the actual date of the Lord's second coming. Ignoring the words of Paul as stated in this verse and the very words of Christ in Mark 13:32, they go on to predict an event that is a holy mystery. Maybe they believe it is important to have certainty, to be ready and prepared. Imagine the relief of knowing that tomorrow *is the day!* No more waiting. No more suffering. No more uncertainty. Our faith is going to be confirmed in his coming.

I see the world as a random, chaotic, and uncertain place—just as the Prince of Darkness would wish it to be. I believe that evil has free rein to do what it will to trap and ensnare the faithful. Yeah, I'd like to know when. That would make it easy, wouldn't it? Instead, what I must deal with is the necessity to faithfully embrace the uncertainty. That keeps me on my toes. I can't quit now, because tomorrow *could be the day!* And that is how I will continue to be in fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Leviticus 16:20-34; Psalms 61, 62; Matthew 6:7-15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Muyinga (Burundi) The Rt Revd Paisible Ndacayisaba, Zanzibar (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Michael Hafidh, Ikwo (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Kenneth Ifemene

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation.

ST. MATTHEWS: Liz & Ron Gordon's wedding anniversary.

Wednesday, May 13

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 *See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.* (v.15)

Payback, revenge, getting even is the message of our culture. Aggression is so easily found in the slightest of incidents. (Don't cut me off in traffic!) Why is it so easy to hear and nod my head in agreement on Sunday and on Monday be a roaring lion of disagreement. Why so easy to forget?

OK. So, what I want is the Spirit to fall upon me. And stay there. Please stay and make me always conscious and aware of your presence. I want a happy, cohesive, Christian family that I can pray with unceasingly. Is that too much to ask? I don't think so. Obviously, the key is to first humble myself and provide respect to other people. Actually, as I get older, being humble has become a lot easier. And, I can respect others by listening to them. Less talking has been a great lesson that I have finally begun to absorb. As I respect the Spirit with more humility and listening, so I should practice with my fellow Christians.

Leviticus 19:1-18; Psalm 72; Matthew 6:19-24

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Zaria (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Abiodun Ogunyemi
Saliu Bello

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Almighty God, to truly know you is everlasting
life.

Thursday, May 14

Matthew 6:25-34 *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”*
(v.25)

I have a big problem with this passage. On the surface, it sounds like it was written by a single guy living the carefree life on the beach somewhere. This whole passage flies in the face of the reality I know of regarding home foreclosures, poverty, joblessness (or minimum wage work), and crushing student loan debt. We even deliver food from our church to families that have difficulty feeding their children. Sorry, but this lacks coherence with the life I am living.

What moderates this passage for me is the command to “worry not” since it cannot add a single hour to my span of life. Modern science has confirmed that worry and anxiety have a deleterious effect upon our health. OK, so I still need to hold down a job, earn money, plan for the future of my retirement, etc.—but also live with God’s kingdom in mind. Because this will all soon be gone.

Leviticus 19:26-37; Psalms 70, 71; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Mytikyina (Myanmar) The Rt Revd John Zau Li,
Zonkwa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jacob Kwashi, Zululand (Southern
Africa) Vacant

DIOCESAN CYCLE: David L. Wells, Springfield, ordination to the
Priesthood; St. James’ Chapel, Marion, admitted to the Diocese, 1924;
St. Michael's, O'Fallon, consecration of present church building, 2000.
ST MATTHEWS: Alex Davingman’s birthday

Friday, May 15

Matthew 7:1-12 *“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.”* (v.1)

I have a saying written on a slip of paper in my desk drawer that I frequently look at: “The only things under my control are my values, my judgments, and the actions I choose to perform. Everything else lies outside my control.” So, I am sensitive about the “judgment” part of this passage. Now the rest of the passage is dealing with our neighbors and how they have a speck in their eye while we can’t see the log in our own eye. It seems to me that Matthew is trying to keep me from being a hypocrite and not advising against carefully thought-out moral judgments that guide my actions.

I have a lot of secular friends. They have not hesitated to voice their disgust and disdain for all things religious. The chief crime—judgment! “You’re so judgmental. Who do you think you are? Keep it to yourself.” They have a point! It wasn’t that long ago when religion, as I knew it, hated gays, believed in segregation, blamed the poor for their condition as a clear sign of moral weakness and sin. Was any of this God inspired? I don’t think so. The best I can do is stay out of the judgment business. If someone wants my opinion, they can ask. (Which very seldom happens, by the way.) I have my own hands full of taking care of myself anyway.

Leviticus 23:1-22; Psalm 106:1-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Nagpur (North India) The Rt Revd Paul Dupare, Aba (Nigeria) Vacant

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Paul's, Alton, admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1837.

Saturday, May 16

Matthew 7:13-21 *“For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* (v.14)

This is the hard, *hard* reality check from Jesus. I don’t care that latter, in Matthew 11:30, Jesus softens his message by saying, “For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” No, it’s not. It’s hard without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The story of the Bible, for me, is that I am

depraved—a sinner in need of salvation. I do the wrong stuff probably as much as the right stuff. And in this passage, Jesus confirms it.

I looked for commentary on this passage (you need to read the whole thing) and it is considered a frightening story to preach this lesson. For in the last days, even the faithful may be told, “I never knew you, go away from me, you evildoers.” How’s that for comfort?

What this tells me is that there are more ways I can go wrong than right. I need be sure of my theological foundation. I must be sensitive to false teaching and false prophets. And, most importantly, pray without ceasing that the Holy Spirit is invited, accepted, and residing within me at all times. Amen.

Leviticus 23:23-44; Psalms 75, 76; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18
ANGLICAN CYCLE: Nairobi (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joel Waweru Mwangi, Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Nathan Kanu, Ikwuano (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Chigozirim Onyegbule
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Mark's, West Frankfort, admitted to the Diocese, 1923.

by Larry Standish

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Pray for those sick and those in distress: Margaret L., Allan H., James G., Mark S., Karen P., Noah D.

Pray for the Faithful Departed: June G.

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.