

## *Good News Daily*

**Volume  
XX**

**May 3-9, 2020**

**Number 18**

### **Sunday, May 3**

Exodus 28:1-4, 30-38 *Make sacred clothes for your brother Aaron. When he is wearing them, people will honor him. They will have respect for him.* (v.2 NIRV)

I attend a large church. The style of dress is very casual. Some people wear shorts or jeans or t-shirts and ball caps. My pastor does not wear a suit or tie for our regular Sunday services.

For some people research reveals that our inner thought life has a profound effect on our outward behavior. The Bible is in agreement with this principle. What we truly think and believe reveals itself in our words, actions, and relationships.

I have a history of clinical depression. This means I also have a long history of negative thinking in general. I am prone to thinking about myself and others and the world around me in negative and damaging ways.

God's word has set me free from this downward spiral of thinking. I do not have to accept negative thoughts or patterns of thinking that are harmful. As a Christian, I have the mind of Christ. I can choose to think with his mind. What a wonderful freedom!

Psalms 63, 98; 1 John 2:18-29; Mark 6:30-44

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan), The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* The Cathedral of St. Paul, Springfield, The Very Rev. Andrew S. Hook, Dean; St. Stephen's Cathedral, Tabora, Tanzania, The Rt. Rev. Elias Chakupewa, Dean, The Rev. Canon Rogers Kashimba, Sub Dean, Rev. Lucas Ngassa, Curate; The Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Lima, Peru, The Very Rev. John Park, Dean. , Birthday of Julie, wife of The Rev. Caleb S. Roberts, Champaign.

*ST. MATTHEWS*: Barbara Williamson's birthday and Chrissy & John Stoffer's wedding anniversary.

### **Monday, May 4**

Colossians 3:18—4:18 *Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. (v.23)*

Who hasn't had a family member or boss who was hard to get along with? It's pretty safe to assume there have been certain people we come in contact with that seem impossible to please or get along with. Personally, there have been more than a few challenging people in my life. Often, I would complain about them and the difficulties dealing with them.

Then, when I read this verse for the first time, it really helped to change my perspective. Even though I have to deal with people firsthand, it is ultimately God who has placed them in my life. When I was able to take the person and the personality out of the equation, I was able to look past and even forgive some of their words and actions.

It is when I aim to please and serve God and Him alone that I am able to work whole heartedly. Whether a relationship or job, knowing I ultimately serve Him, makes all the difference.

Exodus 32:1-20; Psalms 41, 52; Matthew 5:1-10

*ANGLICAN CYCLE*: Mukono (Uganda) The Rt Revd James William Ssebagala, Yewa (form. Egbado) (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi, Ikara (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Yusuf Janfalan

*DIOCESAN CYCLE*: Birthday of The Rev. Dr. Virginia L. Bennett, St. Charles, MO; Wedding Anniversary of The Rev. Gerald W. and Dorothy Raschke, Springfield.

### **Tuesday, May 5**

Exodus 32:21-34 *"So I told them, 'Anyone who has any gold jewelry, take it off.' They gave me the gold. I threw it into the fire. And out came this calf!" (v.24)*

I've come up with some pretty pitiful excuses in my life but this one takes it to a whole new level! It is almost impossible for me to imagine how anyone, let alone a man of faith, could actually verbalize

this as a realistic reason for what had happened. It is almost comical to me!

In the same breath, after reading and studying this passage, I find great reassurance. I am encouraged that despite my sinful behavior and sometimes ridiculous excuses, God extends His grace. If God could extend grace to Aaron after this, He is most certainly able to do the same for me.

I'm so thankful God chose to allow His word to reveal human behavior realistically. He didn't just give us stories of perfect people. These examples give me hope that I am not beyond God's help and grace.

Psalm 45; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 5:11-16

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Multan (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Leo Rodrick Paul, Yirol (South Sudan) The Rt Revd David Roch Angong, Nyang (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Paul Tokmach Lual, Aluakluak (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth, Ikeduru (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Maduwike

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of Mary Ellen, wife of The Rev. David L. Wells, Springfield.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Shelley Carter's birthday.

### **Wednesday, May 6**

Psalm 119:49-72 *You are good, and what you do is good.* (v.68a)

God's word is important to me for many reasons. One reason is that it corrects my thinking and reorients my thoughts to what is really true. God's word is truth. My thinking and feelings are real, but they are not always aligned in the truth.

Often, Satan, the deceiver, whispers things like, "God is holding out on you." Or, "That promise isn't meant for you." Or, "See, God isn't going to come through for you." Like Eve in the garden of Eden, sometimes I listen to that voice.

But then, God's word brings me back to truth. God is good. All the time. No matter what. I cannot trust my thoughts or feelings. Instead, I choose to believe His word. God can be trusted.

Exodus 33:1-23; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:17-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mumbai (Formerly Bombay) (North India) The Rt Revd Prakash Patole, Yokohama (Japan) The Revd Ignatius Osamu Irie

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Birthday of The Rev. Richard A. Pugliese, Topsham, ME.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Phyllis & Dave Halt's wedding anniversary.

### **Thursday, May 7**

Matthew 5:21-26 *"Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother or sister has something against you. Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with them. Then come back and offer your gift."* (vv.23-24)

When taking Communion, it is a time of reflection for me. I pause and ask God to show me if there is any area of sin in my life. I also reflect to see if my conscience is clear in my relationships.

This verse reminds me of my own responsibility to determine if someone has something against me. Not the other way around. I'm not supposed to wait for people to come to me if there is a problem. It is up to me to examine my heart and relationships.

Jesus is reminding us to try and make amends or reconcile if someone has an issue or offense against us. May we all be responsive to take action when the Holy Spirit prompts us. Is there an issue God has brought to your mind? Take care of it today.

Exodus 34:1-17; Psalm 50; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mumias (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joseph Wandera, Yola (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Markus Ibrahim, York (England) The Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Grant us, we pray, Almighty God, that we may always believe in your only begotten son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Friday, May 8**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 *Now may a way be opened up for us to come to you. May our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus do this.* (v.11)

I am a planner. I schedule things. I am not a big fan of doing things spontaneously. I like to know what lies ahead and plan accordingly. This is not always helpful in my spiritual life.

As I have grown over the years in my walk with Christ, I've learned it is helpful to ask God first if what I intend is in His plan. When I pray, I ask His will to be done and not my own will. Often, I ask God to open and close doors accordingly to His plan. The hard part can be accepting it when the door closes! Yet, I take comfort that He is in control and showing me the path I should or should not take.

My part is to be willing to accept the open or closed door. This is what Paul is telling the people he is writing to in this letter. He is asking God to open or close the door accordingly to His will. Are you willing to go another way if God closes a door?

Exodus 34:18-35; Psalms 40, 54; Matthew 5:27-37

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mundri (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Bismark Monday Avokaya Azumu, Ysabel (Melanesia) The Revd Ellison Quity

*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Wedding anniversary of The Rev. Cn. Eugene A. and Janet Stormer, Springfield.

*ST. MATTHEWS:* Liam Halt's birthday.

## **Saturday, May 9**

Matthew 5:38-48 *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor. Hate your enemy.' But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you."* (vv.43-44)

This is a very hard saying of Jesus. It is completely opposite of what we want to do. Exactly how does one love an enemy? How completely painful it is to pray for those who have hurt us. How is it that Jesus can require this of us? Later in the passage, Jesus also tells us to be perfect. How is that for an unattainable standard?

I have learned through experience that praying for someone who has hurt me has actually changed me—not the other person. I think that is Jesus' point. He wants us to be changed and to become like him. He wants to give us his power. He wants to do in us what we are not able to do for ourselves.

Jesus is saying we will need him and his righteousness in order to do the things he calls us to do. I thank him for his work in my life to do what I am not able to do in my own power.

Exodus 40:18-38; Psalm 55; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

*ANGLICAN CYCLE:* Mundu Area (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Samuel Lomue Eluzai , Yukon (Canada) The Rt Revd Larry David Robertson, Ikka (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Godfrey Ekpenisi  
*DIOCESAN CYCLE:* Gregory A. Tournoux, Springfield, ordination to the Priesthood.

*by Pamela Newton*

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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.