

Good News Daily

Volume XX

December 13-19, 2020

Number 50

Sunday, December 13

Psalm 63 *O God, thou art my God, I seek thee, my soul thirsts for thee; my flesh faints for thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is.* (v.1 RSV)

As I grow older, I find that I am often with a feeling of being alone. This is frequently a sign of spiritual loneliness rather than anything else. A dry and parched land is more common to a spiritual loneliness than a physical one. God's undying love never leaves us in a parched land. He offers His hand each and every day. We only need to ask for His hand, and then reach out and hold on to it.

When I start to feel any sensation of being alone, I use it as a reminder to get back into the Scriptures and to become aware once again of the hand He offers. Take comfort in His presence and don't be afraid to reach out and ask for the comfort that comes from holding onto God's hand.

Isaiah 13:6-13; Hebrews 12:18-29; John 3:22-30

Monday, December 14

Isaiah 8:16—9:1 *I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.* (v.17)

Fire, ready, aim. My old unreliable saying. That along with "Pray last...get nowhere fast." Each saying, and this verse, reminds me of the wisdom of seeking the Lord's guidance first by offering our requests in prayer and then being patient enough to allow time for His answer. Too often my petition is offered to be quickly, followed by my taking control in moving with a solution. Why can I not be patient enough and discerning enough to wait upon the Lord? I am working on it.

Offering up our problems or petitions cannot be an end in itself. We must be prayerful and then be patient for His answer or guidance. We must not think that if the answer is not immediate, we have lost the battle. Quick answers are not always the best answers. So, offer your petitions, then be prayerful, and then be patient to "listen" for His response.

Psalms 41, 52; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Luke 22:39-53

Tuesday, December 15

Luke 22:54-69 *But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You are also one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not."* (vv.57-58)

With political correctness influencing most of our utterances, will we ever be challenged to deny our faith? When might it be easier to take a pass than to offer the truth about faith in Jesus? I feel that offering hope, through having faith in or a relationship with Jesus, should be met with joy and thankfulness. But, as we are aware, some take our offer as being offensive and narrow minded. Thus, we either have, or might have, a new challenge. We will need to be bold and brave to witness for Jesus and not to deny our faith even in the presence of pressure to go along and not ruffle anyone's feathers.

Our ultimate judgement will come from Jesus, and not from our earthly friends.

Isaiah 9:1-7; Psalm 45; 2 Peter 1:12-21

Wednesday, December 16

2 Peter 2:1-10a *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who brought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.* (v.1)

Much as some do not want to *hear* the truth, there are others that take a position that their belief is the truth. Faith or religion is being viewed as "How I feel," not what is steeped in truth. Scripture is as relevant today as when it was written. We need to be astute in our reading and understanding of Scripture in order to differentiate what is truth and what is false.

Be keen to rely upon your own reading as compared to just listening to someone else's understanding. Be prayerful in asking for God to reveal true meaning as you read. I find that the further I stray from reading the Bible, the closer I get to being under the influence of false teaching. Our pastors fall by the wayside, and some of our teachers find truth comes with social cost.

Stay true to your faith, walk in prayer with Jesus, and keep the pages of your Bible well read.

Isaiah 9:8-17; Psalm 119:49-72; Mark 1:1-18

Thursday, December 17

Matthew 3:1-12 *"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."* (v.12)

I think we have all been faced at one time or another with the dilemma of faith vs. action. Certainly, our faith cannot be earned, but is there faith without expecting some new action. In Galatians Paul talks about each person being responsible for carrying his own load. I take from that challenge, that we each have a unique calling or expectation of what we are to do in life. I used to say that if I were arrested for being a Christian, I would want enough evidence to convict me. So, be aware of your calling. Look for ways to fulfill it. Go and produce good fruit.

I personally do not want to be on the floor with the winnowing fork.

Isaiah 9:18—10:4; Psalm 50; 2 Peter 2:10b-16

Friday, December 18

Psalm 54 *For thou hast delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.* (v.7)

I am a worrier. I have imagined the unfathomable outcomes of many different problems. Fortunately, most if not all, have never come to pass. I have come to understand that worry is a form of unbelief. My solution now centers on quickly going to prayer when doubt and worry start their entrance. Trying to think through every solution has not proven to be effective. I am not saying that using your own wisdom and understanding are not part of the solution. But worry is not part of the solution. Prayer is.

I have also taken great comfort in writing logs or journals of these difficult problems and, when viewed in the rearview mirror, they become valuable in seeing how the Lord has either worked through the issue or navigated the path around the problem. Take comfort that He can deliver you through your every worry.

Isaiah 10:5-19; Psalm 40; 2 Peter 2:17-22; Matthew 11:2-15

Saturday, December 19

Jude 17-25 *They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions."* (v.18)

As my writing probably suggests, I am not Gen Z or a millennial. My view is that many see today as being all about "me"—it's my body, it's my feeling, it is how it affects me. In some ways, I get it. If one does not have Jesus in their life, then what takes center stage? Once we take him off the throne, anything can and will come to take his place.

For me, this serves as a reminder about the importance to keep living a life that would attract a person to ask about my "peace" or my "assurance." Certainly, those who are following their own ungodly passion will have a fall. Who will be there when they fall? With whom will they seek understanding? It will likely be someone who has shown peace and assurance demonstrated by the manner by which they live.

Be slow to judge others. Stay in your own lane and live a godly life. A time will come for the scoffers to seek truth. You and I want to be there for them.

Isaiah 10:20-27; Psalm 55; Luke 3:1-9

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