

## *Good News Daily*

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### **Sunday, March 14**

Psalm 66 *But God has surely listened and has heard my prayer. Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!* (vv.19-20 NIV)

Most of the writing for this week has come from a time of quarantine and staying at home. For many it has been a time of distress, worry, and uncertainty. I had days where I experienced one or all of those feelings. Has God been listening to my prayers? We all want our certainty restored and our “normal” returned.

But I have been informed by this verse that God surely has listened and has heard my prayer. But maybe just not in the manner I had thought. I have never felt He had withheld his love, but His answer did not always come in the time frame that I had expected. Patience has not been my best virtue. Most times we have already prescribed the answer to be within predetermined parameters. That can lead to frustration. Further, we lose the ability to see our problem from a new perspective. Be patient and willing to receive a different solution. Almost without exception God’s solutions turn out to be better than we could have imagined.

Jeremiah 14:1-9; Psalm 67; Galatians 4:21—5:11; Mark 8:11-21

### **Monday, March 15**

John 6:1-15 *So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.* (v.13)

When surveys have been done asking how much more one needs to feel comfortable, the answer has been common for all levels of income. Each said they need about 25% more. We dream about an income windfall and how we would judiciously use the proceeds. Yet, we live in a land and time of abundance. As Jesus did with the feeding of the five thousand, we should be thankful for the abundance already provided. More income and more things will not provide us the happiness we seek. Seek more time with the Lord and read His word more often. Seek His face and presence and we will realize how abundant living has already arrived.

Jeremiah 16:10-21; Psalm 89:1-18; Romans 7:1-12

### **Tuesday, March 16**

Jeremiah 17:19-27 *“But if you are careful to obey me, declares the LORD, and bring no load through the gates of this city on the Sabbath, but keep the Sabbath day holy by not doing any work on it...”* (v.24)

An element of quarantine has been an expansion of time available for long-postponed projects. It has also been a time of rest for some. Normally, when stressed or needing to accomplish more, we do not tend to take time to rest. Yet, rest often leads to new perspectives. In asking to observe the Sabbath, the Lord was telling us to take a rest. Take a time to reflect. Take time to seek other answers. Take time to pray. Rush and speed are not always the avenues for answers to our problems. Remembering the Sabbath is the Lord’s command to take a rest.

Psalms 97, 99, 100; Romans 7:13-25; John 6:16-27

### **Wednesday, March 17**

Romans 8:1-11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.* (v.11)

While I certainly recognize and talk about the Trinity, I often have been lacking in understanding the “Spirit” part of the three—it is harder for me to grasp. As I have been encouraged in reading more about the Spirit, I encourage you to do the same. Sometimes I consider the Spirit to be my conscience and/or inner voice, always there, always listening and always watching my actions. I have gained comfort

in being more aware of this wonderful gift. It is not that the Lord has walked away, rather He has given me a 24/7 intimate partner and voice. Relax and be comforted by this gift and listen for His calling and communications.

Jeremiah 18:1-11; Psalms 101, 109; John 6:27-40

#### **Thursday, March 18**

John 6:41-51 *“No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life.”* (vv.46-47)

Sometimes we hear the saying about there being many ways to salvation. The view for some is that knowing Christ as the only way is too narrow. Certainly, a loving God should offer more alternatives. Why are we or others hung up about being told the way to gain salvation? If you are told you can start your car by inserting the key into the slot, are we upset about that being too narrow and that more ways should be presented to start your car? Perhaps so, as now we have the concept of remote start and one does not even insert the key. But even with remote start, should we be upset about the narrowness of that method?

I see Scripture informing us about the way to salvation as not being narrow—rather just wanting us to be told and to be aware. Why spend a lifetime looking for another keyhole? Rejoice in the fact that God has taken the time to be explicit in explaining how to be with Him for an eternity. Better to have been told exactly where home is than discussing whether there should have been a myriad of alternatives to get there.

Jeremiah 22:13-23; Psalm 69; Romans 8:12-27

#### **Friday, March 19**

Psalm 102 *Do not hide your face from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.* (v.2)

Some say timing is everything. Africans are willing to wait for results within a longer time frame than Americans. As for me, I am somewhat impatient. Not quite that I want it now, but I expect action. I have found that quickness does not necessarily bring the best answer. Maybe we need to see a completely different answer. One that takes some time to evolve. Fire, ready, aim might not be the best way.

As I practice more patience, I have developed a more listening ear. I have been more open to look for alternatives. I do not see that Scripture supports an immediate answer for all of our problems or petitions. Scripture does support that God will listen and God will answer, but within His timeframe not ours. Be patient.

Jeremiah 23:1-8; Romans 8:28-39; John 6:52-59

#### **Saturday, March 20**

John 6:60-71 *From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.* (v.66)

Most persons go through a period of reflecting about the depth of their faith. Something shakes us and we start worrying or doubting. We want to hold fast to the Scripture assurance about placing our faith in Christ and securing our salvation, but doubt creeps in and we become uncertain.

The disciples were not any different, except they were walking with our Lord in the flesh. Doubt and worry are the tools of the enemy, and he uses them with us just as he did with the disciples. I don't take comfort in the disciple's doubt nor in mine; but it does remind me that our enemy is at work every day. Every day that we drift from God, the enemy fills that space with doubt and worry. I take my comfort by staying in close relationship with God on a daily basis. When we are praying, reading Scripture, or just being quiet trying to listen for God's direction, there is no space for the enemy. Stay close to God. Unlike the disciples, we know "Sunday" is coming.

Jeremiah 23:9-15; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Romans 9:1-18

*by Jim Rogers*

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