

Good News Daily

Volume XXI

May 2-8, 2021

Number 18

Sunday, May 2

Psalm 24 *Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* (v.9 NIV)

The phone rang early one morning with my doctor on the other end arranging appointments to investigate a suspicious area revealed in recent tests. In those few moments, doors closed and I was on the road unknown. Surgery was scheduled. I called on the Lord for courage and took His holy word in my deepest self. The priceless prayers of friends and prayer partners went to Him. Fear came roaring, but I took the mighty sword of His word, "Lifting up my head, that the King of Glory could come in." When I thought of the presence of His glory within me, His almighty majesty in my body, mind, and spirit, I knew nothing could ever match the significance of His presence. I placed myself completely there with him and thought of His mighty right arm protecting me. Each time I called on Him, the warmth of His assurance filled and sustained me.

Joshua 17:14-18; Psalm 29; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; Matthew 7:7-14

Monday, May 3

Colossians 3:18—4:18 *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.* (vv.23-24a)

Once I found myself in a situation of care-giving that seemed interminable. I asked myself, "Is this how the rest of my life is to be spent?" Sometimes my only prayer was, "Oh God, oh God." I found He listens to that prayer and comes to us with light. The light is this: we can reverse this prayer and pray for leveling acceptance. This takes a burden from our backs and gives it to Him. My prayer became: "How can I glorify You, Lord, in the middle of all this?" True to His word, He redeems our grief. The greater the trouble, the greater the blessing.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).

Joshua 18:1-10; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Luke 7:36-50

Tuesday, May 4

Romans 12:1-21 *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.* (v.11)

My special friend, Alice, is on a constant lookout to tell others of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. One day, when taking granddaughters to the neighborhood McDonald's, she noticed a young Down's syndrome worker. Her late love, Rickie, was a treasured Down's son, often called God's angel. On this particular day, she saw Stephanie sitting with her head in her hands and found she was suffering with asthma. Immediately Alice became involved. She told her of the love of Jesus and his healing power. She laid hands on her, praying the Heavenly Father would give Stephanie the breath of life. Alice dropped by McDonald's frequently to check on her, hug her, and talk about Jesus. Yesterday she found Stephanie jubilant, face shining. "I did what you said! Holy Week I was baptized and found Jesus! I have the Holy Spirit. I did what you said!"

Lord, keep us continually passing on the healing and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Joshua 20:1-9; Psalms 61, 62; Luke 8:1-15

Wednesday, May 5

Romans 13:1-14 *...for there is no authority except that which God has established.* (v.1b)

During prayer time, I was busy sticking my thoughts negatively into that which was out of my territory. The Lord's word seemed to come forcefully into my thoughts: "What is that to you (Doris)!" (John 21:22). Although thoughts that occur from the Holy Spirit are usually gentle, these words had a

certain tinge that got my attention. Then came, “Don’t get in my way, follow me!” What was I thinking? Getting in the Lord’s way is a fearsome contemplation.

Lord, I only want to follow you. Help me hold back from hurrying into your territory with my flags flying. Help me to be quiet, to pause and wait on you.

Joshua 21:43-45, 22:1-6; Psalm 72; Luke 8:16-25

Thursday, May 6

Romans 14:1-12 *It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’”* (v.11)

I was convicted. I needed to bow down and make confession to the Lord. But such a long list, going so far back—I needed to write it all down. However, the very first thing that came to mind was a list of yesterday’s transgressions. And what about five minutes ago? There was a big job ahead.

Fr. Al Durrance suggests the following: “I begin by thanking Jesus for being there with me and the fact that he is able and willing to go back into time with me. I ask him first to go into my deep mind and let his light shine into the dark corners where the little ones are hiding because of rejection, shame, or anger. I ask that he let them come out into the light of his love where he might wash away the negatives and be healed, recalling his presence and the comfort of his love, joy, and peace.”

Joshua 22:7-20; Psalms 70, 71; Luke 8:26-39

Friday, May 7

Psalm 106:1-18 *Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise?* (v.2)

Coming up the aisle towards me at a Healing Mission in 1985, was a breathtaking young child, obviously very ill. As I turned to catch another glimpse of her, I was called into the mystery of “knowing” when to pray for strangers. “We passed not speaking, hurried strangers quick retreating. But second pause revealed a shadowed cause; her fragile head, a little body’s tender thread, so pulling thin. A drawn desire to take her in, embrace and pour the Lamb of God to very core. To call the Lord our God to slay the evil chill of ill away with little frame made new again.”

The Light of the Lord was with Stephanie Ann Wisdom before she actually went on to eternal life. All who came in contact with her were made new in the Lord in some way.

Lord, help us watch for the ones You send. Thank You for the privilege of praying for Your beloveds.

Joshua 22:21-34; Romans 14:13-23; Luke 8:40-56

Saturday, May 8

Psalm 75 *In the hand of the LORD is a cup, full of foaming wine mixed with spices; he pours out...* (v.8)

I was sitting at a little consulting table with my physician. “Mrs. Matthews, what do you mean you discontinued your medication because you thought it wasn’t working?” I could see his patience was wearing thin as he handed me my new prescription. The look in his eye indicated firmly, “No more practicing medicine without a license.”

There is a similarity when we pray to the Lord for an urgent need. Time passes. In spite of vigorous prayers, nothing changes; in fact, the needs may intensify. We lose patience. Is He really listening? We think of taking matters into our own hands, but truth is, we can’t. He holds the cup. In the long run, our Lord never fails. Our prayers are always answered well indeed. Perhaps He sees in different light our deeper need. In thanks and Praise! Amen and Amen.

Joshua 23:1-16; Psalm 76; Romans 15:1-13; Luke 9:1-17

by Doris Matthews

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