

Good News Daily

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Sunday, June 27

Psalms 118 *Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love endures forever.* (v.1 NIV)

I tend to overthink things. This is a Scripture verse that I just need to embrace at face value. We do this because it is an important part of our walk with the Lord.

Father, I thank You for the remarkable gift of Your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I thank You for Your sovereignty. I thank You that by knowing You and trusting my life to You, I will know Your love forever and ever. Not just here on this earth, but my heart will be embraced and secure in Your goodness and love that endures forever. I thank You that You are a good, good Father who graciously shares Your mercy, wisdom, and creativity.

1 Samuel 10:1-16; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 21:23-32

Monday, June 28

Psalms 106:1-18 *But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold.* (v.13)

I am reminded of a time recently when we were at the beginning of the Covid stay at home requirements. It was Maundy Thursday and we were having the service online. The church was meeting on Zoom! I had signed up to read during the service and I needed an extra *Book of Common Prayer*. I went to the church to pick one up, as there were some extras left out on the front porch of the Sanctuary. As I walked up to the church, I saw the signs on the door: “Public Worship Is Cancelled Until Further Notice. Please join us at...” My heart sank as I was filled with the reality and severity of the situation. I felt overwhelmed with sadness and I basically freaked out for a minute or two. How soon we forget the great and mighty God we serve! I paused and stood on the steps and took a few minutes to breathe and ask God to pull me together. Soon enough, I was feeling joy about the fact that the body of Christ is still worshipping with one another and we don’t have to all be together for this season of time. I went on my way and worshipped together with friends in faith on Zoom. Thanks be to God.

1 Samuel 10:17-27; Acts 7:44—8:1a; Luke 22:52-62

Tuesday, June 29

Psalms 121 *My help cometh from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!* (v.2 NLT)

He made heaven and earth yet presented His only Son to us in a humble manger. He uses meekness and greatness creatively and interchangeably like no other.

As I write this, I am staying in a cabin on Lake Watauga in the mountains of East Tennessee where I grew up. It’s a stunning view of this huge lake resting at the foot of the mountains. As I take a morning walk, I spy a small boat at the end of the dock facing outward. It has the name “Little Tug” on the side and it has the appearance of a traditional tugboat from a story book I read as a kid. It is very old looking and is seasoned with dents and rust all over the body. It looks worn out from a life of hard work. I think about how often God uses meekness or the least likely person or situation to fulfill His plan. How odd it is for this old and worn out little boat to maneuver and aid the large vessels of the lake and pull them to safety. Our help comes from the Lord, help me to recognize it when He brings it in meekness or greatness.

1 Samuel 11:1-15; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Acts 8:1-13; Luke 22:63-71

Wednesday, June 30

Acts 8:14-25 *When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* (vv.15-16 NIV)

In Sunday school as a kid, the curriculum didn't offer many teachings about the Holy Spirit. In fact, the Sunday school teacher called him the Holy Ghost (not an appealing name to a second grader). I grew up loving God the Father and His sovereignty and Jesus Christ His Son who saved me, but I did not grasp the Holy Spirit at all. Later in life, as a young adult, I learned and was embraced by the power of the comforter who indwells in all of us who receive Christ as our Savior. Years later and by the filling of the Holy Spirit, I am enjoying what the Bible calls a new creation inside me. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit wants to bring us all into a more abundant life!

1 Samuel 12:1-6, 16-25; Psalm 119:145-176; Luke 23:1-12

Thursday, July 1

Psalm 131 *LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great nor too awesome for me to grasp.* (v.1 NLT)

There are wars of emotions, wars on relationships, wars on finances, and generally wars on our well-being going on all around us. On the days that my wife Lisa and I humble ourselves in prayer before the Lord, everything changes; not necessarily the circumstances but the attitude of the day. The beautiful reality that my wife and I have experienced as we pray is like that song, "He's got the whole world in His hands." It isn't natural to hand everything over to the Lord, but when I realize the relief from standing together and giving God the matters too great and awesome for me to grasp, I am also reminded of a verse in a song by Twila Paris: "Deep inside this armor, the warrior is a child." Child-like faith can take the edge off the toughest of challenges.

1 Samuel 13:5-18; Psalms 132, 133; Acts 8:26-40; Luke 23:13-25

Friday, July 2

1 Samuel 13:19—14:15 *"Perhaps the LORD will help us, for nothing can hinder the LORD. He can win a battle whether he has many warriors or only a few!"* (v.6b)

I have a good friend and we attend a men's Bible study together. He is the greatest example of a prayerful warrior of faith. He has been disabled from birth in the body, but at the same time powerfully alive in his soul and spirit. He was raised in a foster home, and essentially everyone in his life turned their backs on him. My friend has walked hand in hand with the Lord, allowing him to reign in his life and win his battles. He never complains, he is the first to forgive, he is not bitter, he is wise, and his inner strength is nothing short of heavenly. The Lord helps my friend and he will help you and I no matter the odds.

Psalms 140, 142; Acts 9:1-9; Luke 23:26-31

Saturday, July 3

Luke 23:32-43 *But the other one rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same judgment? We are punished justly, for we are receiving what our actions deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."* (vv.40-41 NKJV)

Most of us know this part of the story. Yet, as I think about the two criminals' conversation, I see the stark reality of choices presented. One confesses his guilt, his need for a savior. The other is wrapped up in the anger of his situation, doesn't acknowledge his sins or responsibility for what he has done, and trash talks Jesus. One chooses Jesus and the other doesn't—but he could have! "Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill: one will be taken and the other left" (Matthew 24:40-41).

1 Samuel 14:16-30; Psalms 137, 144; Acts 9:10-19a; Luke 23:32-43

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