

Good News Daily

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Sunday, April 7

John 14:1-7 *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”* (v.1 NIV)

I have often wondered why it was so difficult to let Jesus speak “Peace, be still” to my heart and to have my heart respond. Looking externally, I would assume that anyone caught in a precarious situation would more than welcome the assuaging of the storms of life. But often we don’t. Often we want to be changed but not do the changing.

When I look at my own life, I see places where I get great mileage out of my circumstances. It is almost as if I were saying: “Look at me, look at how rough things are; aren’t I something; aren’t I being a super Christian?” That’s not healthy mileage, and in those times, there is no peace in my heart. But where the paralysis often lies is in lack of trust, lack of leaning fully into the Father and letting His seed of hope take root within us. Only then is trouble not a companion; only then can we find freedom in the spacious place to which He has brought us.

Exodus 14:5-22; Psalms 146, 147; 1 John 1:1-7

Include in your prayers: Our country; for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations; for our armed forces and their families, especially Kyle Irving, Dylan Jenkins, Dick Layden and Rhett Price, and those now in danger and any continuing to struggle; for our enemies; for peace – especially in Ukraine, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East; for Haiti and Bondeau; and for Todd and Patsy McGregor and their work with SAMS training missionaries.

Monday, April 8

Exodus 14:21-31 *And when the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant.* (v.31)

For many of us, our time of conversion was dramatic. Circumstances in life brought us to a point of no return and, in that moment, we finally relinquished control of our lives to the Father who had pursued us. If that particular event was not dramatic, often the changes that occurred in our lives following that time were major.

But have you noticed that what often happens is that as we go on in our Christian lives, the dramatic spiritual breakthroughs and healings—the evidence of the Lord’s hand at work—becomes less and less a part of our everyday lives?

There is a reason we are brought together as the Body of Christ, called as believers to share the stories of our encounters with the Lord. Just as the Israelites believed when they saw the power that the Lord displayed, so our faith is strengthened and our hope increased by the stories of our brothers and sisters as they encounter God in their lives. The more we distance ourselves from these stories, the weaker the foundation of our faith. God calls us to “remember,” to relive and retell the stories, so that we see what He is doing in our lives right now.

Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 Peter 1:1-12; John 14:8-17

Include in your prayers: Ricardo Acuña, Rick Anderson, Kay Bailey, Liz Bardin, Elizabeth Bastion, June Baxter, Christopher Brassington, Ray Browne, Bill and Barbara Buttner, Barbara Carlson, Melanie Casey, Laurie Caudle, Linton and Gloria Chung, Conner Clendening, Nancy H. Cole, and Leslie Cook.

Tuesday, April 9

1 Peter 1:13-25 *Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.* (v.13)

We live in a time in which there is great apathy and indifference. It seems that the closer we live to one another geographically, the farther apart we are in our relationships with others. Sensitivity to, and care for others seems to suffer.

Here Peter exhorts us to prepare our minds for action, to be alert and sober. It is a preparation that puts us in a proactive posture. In order to be prepared for action, we must take our thoughts and focus them on the very source of life. The call to be self-controlled, surely not a popular worldly concept, means that we are rejecting thoughts and influences that come to take root in our minds, other than what the Father sends. Then, we can set our hope fully, because we are prepared to make God's choices, to have Him as our focus, and to do the things He would have us do in a very needy world.

Exodus 15:1-21; Psalms 5, 6; John 14:18-31

Include in your prayers: Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, MT Delate, Claude D'Estree, Marion Downing, Margaret Dunstan, Celeste Dysard, Ned Edwards, Gil Evans, Jim Finell, Fran Ford, Dee Garafano, Charlie Gasperino, Pam Heatley, Tom Henry.

Wednesday, April 10

Psalms 119:1-24 *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* (v.11)

My thoughts cannot help but go to a small child finding some special treasure in the backyard. It might be a rock or an old coin, but it becomes a treasure to the child. That treasure finds a special place in the room and becomes the object of the child's attention. It becomes the first thing the child checks on when he returns from school; it is well cared for and delighted in.

Our call as Christians is to give God's word the same sort of treasure status in our lives. That we might read His word again and again, looking for and expecting to find new facets of this precious gem. That when our day finds us with a few moments, we might go to the place where we have stored this treasure and look lovingly into it. When we carry Scripture in our hearts, we carry a knowledge of God's love for us, and to sin or separate ourselves from Him is the very last thing we would want to do. Find that treasure and hold it close.

Exodus 15:22—16:10; 1 Peter 2:1-10; John 15:1-11

Include in your prayers: Bill and Renee Hoerle, Vicki Huber, Jenna Hunter, Mary Imle, Cindy Islip, Jacqui and Harry Kapinowski, Brian Keller, Fran Labossiere, Jeffrey Lefevre, Tom Lefevre, Taylor Lunn, Elias Mansour, Elaine Mariggio, Emily Mather, and the McGrath-Burnett family.

Thursday, April 11

Exodus 16:10-22 *Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."* (v.19)

Moses is telling the Israelites to gather the manna, the bread from heaven, each day, taking only what they need for that day. Concerned about the adequacy of the provision, some of the Israelites gathered more, only to find it maggot-infested the next morning. How very indicative of human nature.

It is incredibly difficult for us to believe that God will take care of us, will be our provision, not just today but all the days down the road. And so we begin to accumulate: money, possessions, defenses, whatever it might be that we think He might neglect. While the actual things that we have accumulated might not "rot," they will often cause a rotting in our souls.

To learn to lean on the Lord daily for our physical, emotional, and spiritual provision is to be able to see the expansiveness of His love for us. When our storehouses are full, we are less likely to lean into the heart of the Father and listen for His direction. Our call is to awaken each day, waiting to hear His voice, waiting to receive His provision, eager to delight in Him alone.

Psalms 18:1-20; 1 Peter 2:11-25; John 15:12-27

Include in your prayers: Bob Montheard and Pam DeFelice, Makayla Mullins, Marilyn Pariseleti, Peter Pawlikowski, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Karen Rugar and her family, Charles and Kathy Sakin, Dona Scoville, and Elizabeth Sibley.

Friday, April 12

John 16:1-15 *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear."* (v.12)

It's no wonder that many people, in discussing matters of faith, try to avoid Christians. For some reason we seem to feel we have to dispense our entire knowledge of the faith each time we meet an unbeliever. "If water is good for my plant," we must think, "then I'm bringing out the firehose!" In cases like that, we are not being "salt and light," we are not even listening to the questions or needs of the person with us. We think that we know what they need.

Jesus prepared his disciples by telling them and showing them as much as they could receive. He acknowledged that there was much more they needed to know, but that would have to come when the Holy Spirit came. When we "pour out all our wisdom," it is as though we are not trusting God in matters of timing and proportion. As the delicate seed planting begins in the hearts of others, let us listen carefully to the Father as He tells us if we are to prepare, to plant, to water, to wait—whatever our part may be.

Exodus 16:23-36; Psalms 16, 17; 1 Peter 3:13—4:6

Include in your prayers: Sean Simon, Howard Smith, Paul Smith, Allison Spencer, Rob Steiner, Carolyn Tefft, Phil Toren, Ed Traver, Mary Ella Turner, Keith van Cleave, Mary Jean Wampler, George Whitely, Catherine Woods, Peter and Mirabelle Wrist, Bunny Wullschleger, and Elise Yannuzzi.

Saturday, April 13

1 Peter 4:7-19 *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.* (v.7)

We live in a world that is inundated with noise, with details, with schedules, with distractions. Day-timers and calendars are as necessary as gas in the car, as we move from event to event in constant motion.

Here Peter is calling us to be clear minded and self-controlled. To be clear minded implies not only that all calendars agree, but that we have made choices as to what to embrace and what to relinquish. Clear mindedness allows us to see truth objectively, self-control allows us to act on it responsibly, but prayer is the underlying necessity.

While we would like to think that we can pray anytime, we see here that we must prepare our hearts and minds in order to get at the essence of prayer—communication with the Father that allows us to listen as well as to voice our concerns. Let us pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to reign in our lives so that we are always ready to come to the Father, whose very love gives us all life and hope.

Exodus 17:1-16; Psalms 20, 21; John 16:16-33

Include in your prayers: Andre, Ali, Brian, Camilo, Christopher, Clay, Connie, Dan and Nancy, Diana, Marguerite, Marty, Maryn, Parker, Peter, Sandy, Sean, for caregivers and receivers, those in recovery, and St. Raphael's Episcopal Church.

by Sallie Ross

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