

Good News Daily

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Sunday, October 10

Jeremiah 36:1-10 *"I am banned from going to the house of the Lord, so you are to go..."* (vv.5-6 ESV)

Last year, a black student at the University of Virginia told white students to leave a multi-cultural center because there were too many of them around. The internet message site Twitter has banned conservative accounts without notice or explanation. A gay candidate running for the presidential nomination in the USA said Christians who didn't support his political position were hypocrites.

Such efforts to exclude uncomfortable critics are not new. The prophet Jeremiah faced similar attempts to silence his voice at the temple itself. He didn't stop. He found a way to proclaim God's message to the nation anyway. Christ's disciples faced beatings for their message. Jesus was crucified.

Christian witnesses don't seek out hostile reactions. But we mustn't be discouraged by them. They're not new. God's purpose in sending us to shine His light in darkness remains unshaken. And His concern doesn't stop with our tongues. God even makes the feet of His messengers beautiful! (Romans 10:15)

Psalms 146, 147; Acts 14:8-18; Luke 7:36-50

Include in your prayers: Our country; for wisdom and guidance for our leaders and the leaders of all nations; for our armed forces, especially those now in danger and any continuing to struggle, including Rory Fitch, Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, and their families; for our enemies; for peace, 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, October 11

Matthew 10:5-15 *"Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans..."* (v.5)

I was being considered for a job to manage a company I liked. I had worked for the company many years and knew the people. I had held similar positions at other companies. Still, I was turned down. Twice.

It was years before I became able to see that God closing that door had nudged me toward other doors that led me to unexpected and better opportunities. (Meanwhile, the company that had turned me down soon went out of business. My hoped-for future there would have been short.)

King David wanted to build God a temple. God said no. Paul wanted to take his mission work East. God said no. Peter wanted to know what Jesus had in store for John. Jesus said it was none of his business. But in each case, God did have further direction and purpose for each of these servants.

If you hear God's "No" or even His "Wait..." this week, remember it's because He already has a better plan for you.

Jeremiah 36:11-26; Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Include in your prayers: Ricardo Acuña, Joanna Aras, Karin Armbruster, Kay Bailey, David and Jayne Baker, Liz Bardin, Todd Baron, Wally and Evelyne Bates, James Baur, Nicholas Beswick, Joe Bishop, Lance Block, Pete Bohnsack, Kelly Bonneau, Brad Brett and Linda Johnson-Brett, Abigail Browne, Melanie Casey, Gloria Chung, Nico Clothier.

Tuesday, October 12

Matthew 10:16-23 *"Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves."* (v.16)

Melanie and I watch wildlife documentaries. Some of the most fascinating and dramatic scenes show the precautions the zoologists take approaching dangerous, large, wounded animals in order to care for them. Steps are taken to protect the human workers from panicked, frightened animals who habitually try to avoid being approached at all. The humans are there to help, but face danger from the animals they try to rescue.

Last year there were sad stories of medical personnel who got infected while dealing with victims of the Coronavirus outbreak. The sick people were a danger to the ones trying to help them, even if they didn't intend to be so. Sometimes the threat is in the circumstance and misunderstanding, not the heart.

It might seem odd that Jesus wanted to send his own followers to face danger and hostility in the world. But sometimes in order to help, you have to get close first, regardless of danger. That's what Jesus did.

Jeremiah 36:27—37:2; Psalms 5, 6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Include in your prayers: Martin Conlon, Robert Connell, Shirley Connell, Mark Connell, Alan Costa, Cindy Croushore, Joe and Connie D'Alessandro, Ruth Dans, Joseph Devan, Lynn Duncan, Rachel Dwyer, George Dzama III, Nolan Eicher, Susan Feldman, Mary Fietze, Drew Fogg, the French family, and John Fullager.

Wednesday, October 13

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

As a writer, I have slowly built up a vocabulary to give me an assortment of words to express myself with. This plethora of morphemes enables me to avoid tedious, boring, long-winded repetitions. But to write the various words properly I have to know how to spell them. I don't always remember. My computer catches ~~some~~ some errors (but not if I have typed the wrong word correctly). I often have to check a dictionary. Sometimes, in an overconfident hurry, I look at the word's proper spelling once, then forget it again when I try to type it down.

That doesn't work in writing. It doesn't work in trying to live a life pleasing to the Lord, either. I need to consult the Book, over and over. The more I commit it to heart, the longer I can go without stumbling. There are no errors in the Book. I want my life like that.

Jeremiah 37:3-21; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25; Matthew 10:24-33

Include in your prayers: Charlie Gasperino, Anne Gibb, Jake Graybill, Janie Greene, Dennis and Janet Grote, Barbara Gustafson, Joe Hagerty, Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Hart family, Shirley Hazen, Pam Heatley, Sally Honeyman, Mike and Alicia Howard and family, Mimi Howard, Mary Imle, Tindy Islip, Stephen Johnson, Jr. and Jennifer Corson, Kristian Joseph, Allison Kieffer and family, Keith and Janet Kieffer, Susan Kelly, Jeff Lefevre, Sarah Lawler, Frank Lepore, and Greg Lowe

Thursday, October 14

Jeremiah 38:1-13 *So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.* (v.6)

Did you ever notice the people in beauty product advertisements or clothing catalogs? They're always head-turning knockouts. Movie stars are usually the same. These people earn money because the rest of us are willing to turn over every dollar we can if their products will only help us become as attractive and admired as they are. Advertisers are counting on that desire in us as they try to entice us to buy from them.

On the other hand, God lets some of His best representatives get covered in mud and ridicule and scorn. He allowed His own Son to die naked in public. Why would anyone want to be like them?

Perhaps the intended message is that the mud and scorn, definitely unpleasant for the moment, are actually worth it in the long run. Perhaps the messengers know something after all? What's that they're singing? "Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say 'It is well...'"

Psalm 18:1-20; 1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40; Matthew 10:34-42

Include in your prayers: Becky Mahoney's family, Patricia Malloy, Elaine Mariggio, Priscilla Marshall, Steve McCue, Joey Mitchell, Julia Montgomery, Bob Montheard, Judy Mozer, Ashley Munoz, Mindy Nash, Dawn Neher, Sammera & Dash Parker, Peter Pawlikowski, Joe Pellegrini, Sal & Colleen Perrone, Chris Peters, Brook Pitman, Jim and Jerre Rannie, Debbie Rannie,

Friday, October 15

Psalm 16 *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (v.11)

Where would 20th century American song writers, musical stars and singers, and recording companies be without love songs? Before rap swept the pop music scene, romantic love themes appeared in 4 out of 5 hit song lyrics. Their popularity reflected our fascination with that strange awareness, the unexpected attraction that people sometimes felt upon meeting a new friend. What seemed so strange about such moments was that often the other person wasn't doing anything other than *being there*.

The feeling of wanting the company of someone else is a reflection of God's image, the one in which we are made. God as a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lives in the joy of each other's presence. That surprising and inexplicable joy is part of why we, too, feel such intrigue and interest in knowing more about God. He first loved us. We come to enjoy His Presence even when it surprises us and we can't explain it.

Jeremiah 38:14-28; Psalm 17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 11:1-6

Include in your prayers: Carlos Salmán, Jessica Sanchez, Maggie Sandin,

Nancy Scarpa, Arnie Selna, Cheryl Seyfert, Tammy Simpson, Amanda Smith, Brian Smith and family, Howard Smith, Kathryn Smith, Kimberley Smith, Melissa Smith, Philip Smith, Allison Spencer, Bob and Audrey Sprague, Cliff Stehle, Rob Steiner, Roger Thomas, Richard Timmerman, Phil Toren, Keith van Cleave, Patricia Vreeland, Grace Wasko, Karen Weitz, George Whiteley, the Willcox family, Wendy Williams, Bob and Joetta Wright, Leia and Kaala, Mirabelle Wrist, Ric Wrist, Ali Zygmunt

Saturday, October 16

Matthew 11:7-15 *As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* (vv.7, 15)

I enjoy watching mysteries and magicians on TV. Both show you things and try to draw your attention to things. The goal is to draw attention away from something else, in order to conceal facts that would give away the tricky solution. The most confident magicians don't say a word while setting a trick. They tap a glass with their wand, expecting viewers to draw the conclusion that it is a simple, solid, normal glass. They poke and wave the wand inside a box, expecting you to conclude it is empty. All the time, the glass or box have nothing to do with the trick. You've been distracted from looking where the secret is hiding.

We trust our eyes, thinking they are the most important tool we have to direct our thinking. Jesus pointed instead to our ears, the tools that allow us to hear words of direction and instruction, even when we can't see where we are going. The trick is to choose to give our attention to the right tool.

2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26; Psalms 20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:12-29

Include in your prayers: Bonnie, Bunny, Clay, Dale Anne, Dave and Marion, Glenda, Jane, Jay, Kim, Karen and family, Laurette, Leo, Lindy, Marilyn, Marty, Meg and family, Nancy and Stan, Pat, Trish, Victoria and family, nursing home residents suffering from COVID.

by Rick Hoover

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