

## *Good News Daily*

Volume XXI

October 17-23, 2021

Number 42

### **Sunday, October 17**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 *“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”* (v.13 NIV)

The people of Israel rebelled against the Lord of hosts; they sinned and found themselves in a strange, foreign land. Even if they were able to come to grips with the fact they were in exile because of their own disobedience, it would have been easy to wish the time of exile would be short and that the Lord would intervene and rescue them one more time.

But God said, “Go about your business of living—build houses, plant gardens, raise your family, pray for the welfare of Babylon, be discerning about those who claim to speak for me, be patient and seek me with all your heart and you will find me.”

When things don’t go “right” in my life, it’s easy to become impatient, to look for a quick fix, and wonder why God doesn’t straighten everything out. In times like these, Jeremiah reminds me of the need to continue to go about my daily activities and to seek God’s will with the assurance He hears my prayers, will bring me back from my self-imposed exile, and let me join with the psalmist to “praise him for his surpassing greatness” (Psalm 150:2b).

Psalms 148, 149, 150; Acts 16:6-15; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

***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 18**

Jeremiah 44:1-14 *But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods.* (v.5)

While vacationing in the beautiful White Mountains of New Hampshire this past summer, we took a spectacular three-mile ride up Mount Washington via the coal-fired, steam-driven “Cog Railway.” During the trip, the fireman shoveled a ton of coal into the engine’s open furnace forcing 1,000 gallons of water through the steam engine to push one car with about 80 passengers up the mountain at three m.p.h. The brakeman kept a vigilant watch to make sure the cog gears held the track, which goes up at a 25% incline (at one point it increases to 37%!).

Of course, what goes up must come down! On the steep descent the engineer applied the brakes of the engine cog gears while the brakeman engaged the brakes of the cog gears of the passenger car. Both men had to be completely focused on the task at hand and play by the rules to ensure a safe trip for all. If they became distracted, it could mean disaster for themselves and their passengers.

Taking their eyes and attention off God meant disaster for the Jews in Jeremiah’s day. This is a lesson we must heed today as well.

Psalms 25; 1 Corinthians 15:30-41; Matthew 11:16-24

***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, Kelly Bonneau, Brad Brett and Linda Johnson-Brett, Abigail Browne, Melanie Casey, Gloria Chung, Nico Clothier.

### **Tuesday, October 19**

Matthew 11:25-30 *“All things have been committed to me by my Father.”* (v.27a)

“Praise the name of Jesus. Praise the name of Jesus. He’s my rock, he’s my fortress, he’s my deliverer, in him will I trust” (Roy Hicks). Recently we spent a week with a group of Christians who share

a tradition different from our own. The simple truths of this and other praise choruses joined us together with them in a unity only possible for those who confess Jesus as Lord.

Take a moment to reflect on the magnitude of Jesus' claim: "All things have been committed to me by my Father." It's awesome and sobering to think that Jesus is part of everything we do and each thought in our minds. Do all our actions and thoughts honor him? Sadly, I know I often fall short.

In Colossians, Paul proclaims, "For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth... all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (1:16-17). "My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song" (Psalm 28:7b).

"Praise the name of Jesus."

Lamentations 1:1-12; Psalms 26, 28; 1 Corinthians 15:41-50

**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 20

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 *Death has been swallowed up in victory.* (v.54b)

John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn, and Carolyn's sister, Lauren Bessette, died in a plane crash and were buried at sea several decades ago. In the days prior to the burial, the news media often spoke of how the Kennedys had more than their fair share of tragedy. Life's hard side begs the question, "How do we go on?" for the family and friends left to mourn after events like this.

Christians and non-Christians alike face the terror of death at some point, whether it is the breakup of a relationship, loss of a job that provided material wealth, the diagnosis of a terminal illness of a parent, or the sudden accident that takes the life of a child. "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (v.57). Jesus' death and Resurrection affirm for us, as his followers, that death is not the end—God will have the last word.

We may be terrorized by the circumstances of death, but "My hope is built on nothing less/Than Jesus' blood and righteousness," for it is "On Christ the solid rock I stand/All other ground is sinking sand/All other ground is sinking sand" (Edward Mote).

Lamentations 2:8-15; Psalm 38; Matthew 12:1-14

**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 21

Psalms 37:1-18 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.* (v.7a)

It's difficult for me to be still; my mind always seems to be occupied, sometimes with important things, and at other times with trivia. There is a constant temptation to do rather than to be. The great preacher Phillip Brooks (author of "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" and rector of Trinity Church in Boston during the mid-1800s) is reported to have said, "The trouble is, I'm in a hurry and God isn't."

During a recent vacation day, I made a commitment to be still and meditate on this verse; to simply be and not do anything. Being still involves remaining quiet, with no agenda other than to enjoy being in the presence of God: "before the Lord." For me this involved sitting silently in a chair with little movement, away from all distractions, and "waiting" with an awareness that I was on holy ground, patiently seeking to accept God's timing rather than my own.

Through God's word and by His grace, there was a sense of peace in this time of being that I often do not get to enjoy. The peace that we all seek is there—try it!

Ezra 1:1-11; 1 Corinthians 16:1-9; Matthew 12:15-21

**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 22**

Psalm 31 *In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit.* (vv.1a, 5a)

During the past several years we have often closed our day together with the service of Compline in The Book of Common Prayer. It quiets our spirits and joins us with the saints down through the centuries in prayer to God. Repeating the first five verses of Psalm 31 frequently has moved the words off the page of the Prayer Book and brought them into my mind and heart to ponder. These words have been life-giving, offering encouragement and confidence that our God is faithful, worthy of my ultimate trust and in whom I can take refuge.

Jesus knew the Scriptures well and his final, dying words on the cross were taken from Psalm 31, “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” In using these words, Jesus is our example for demonstrating supreme trust in God our Father. He knew who to go to for springs of living water and for refuge and into whose hands he could trust his spirit. It serves me well in my daily ups and downs to “Bind them [God commands] on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart” (Proverbs 7:3). How about you?

Ezra 3:1-13; 1 Corinthians 16:10-24; Matthew 12:22-32

***Include in your prayers:*** Carlos Salmán, Jessica Sanchez, Maggie Sandin, Nancy Scarpa, Arnie Selna, Chery 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, Leah and Kaala, Mirabelle Wrist, Ric Wrist, Ali Zygumt

### **Saturday, October 23**

Philemon 1-25 *I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you.* (v.12)

Onesimus was a runaway slave who had the good fortune of encountering Paul, and his life was changed forever. Onesimus and Paul became brothers in Christ. To keep Onesimus with him was Paul’s desire, but he knew he had to send him back to Philemon, his master. Paul knew it wouldn’t be easy, but with Christ by his side, Onesimus could face his past mistakes, accept the consequences, and rise above them to become a free man.

In so many areas of life today it appears that people are encouraged to take the easy way out and run away from the truth. In reality we all desperately need a helping hand to face the truth and its consequences and move on to new life. In so doing, like Onesimus, we can enjoy the freedom of spirit that comes with meeting our mistakes head on.

I pray that, as Christians, we have the courage to face our circumstances with the boldness of Paul, to share the good news of Christ’s love, enabling those close to us to gain victory over their actions and enjoy the freedom Christ offers.

Ezra 4:7, 11-24; Psalms 130, 32; Matthew 12:33-42

***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 Gail and Jack Potter***

Used with permission from the BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP  
PO Box 380, Winter Park, FL 32790  
[www.biblereading.org](http://www.biblereading.org)