

Good News Daily

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Sunday, August 9

Mark 4:35-41 *And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. (vv.37-38a NKJV)*

How can Jesus sleep in the boat when we are in a storm? Doesn't he understand the ship is sinking because of the current Doppler radar forecast? Doesn't he see my son is on drugs or my marriage is about to hit the rocks? My adjustable interest rate is going up and I can't continue to pay the mortgage.

First, you need to realize that earlier in the Scripture Jesus had told them to cross over to the other side. They were listening to God's will. Second, they were men of the sea who knew boating. Many were fisherman who kept their boats in good repair.

God wants me to be more sensitive to hear His plan. I also need to do the daily work and tasks to be prepared. I need to be present in my son's life. I need to educate myself on adjustable rate mortgages and not just buy one because a salesman said it was great. I might need counseling to be a more loving husband. Faith is an action word, not just sitting on our hands praying.

Judges 11:1-11, 29-40; Psalms 66, 67; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31

Happy Birthday Lynne Fisher and Eric Hogan!

Monday, August 10

John 3:1-21 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (v.3)*

This parable is one of the "pearls" of the Bible. I remember many years ago when God used the worst moment of my life to transform it into one of the best moments—all due to the truth of what Jesus taught the Pharisee Nicodemus.

My life had come crashing down, due to alcoholism and living a secret life. I stood at a crossroad because I had been an actor in church for many years, singing the hymns and praying the prayers with no real personal relationship with Christ. I had lived my life under my own strength, and it was a mess. God had always been there, ready to transform my heart, but I had such a grip on the wheel.

Fourteen years ago, I finally, in my heart of hearts, asked Jesus to be my personal savior. It wasn't because I had fixed myself up, but because I was finally ready for Him to fix me up with a rebirth.

Judges 12:1-7; Psalm 89:1-18; Acts 5:12-26

Tuesday, August 11

Psalm 100 *Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.* (v.2)

Attitude! I know I fail in this area so many times. I let my circumstances dictate my attitude. I can get so caught up in the troubled moment and forget I serve a God who has given me eternity.

We are always testing God with one more hoop to jump through and then we can be joyful. Heal my ailing mother; help me secure that promotion or maybe some financial help. Please God, jump through this one more hoop.

Reality is that He has already jumped through the highest hoop by giving us eternity with Him when we accept Christ as our Savior. What more should He have to do to make us have a joyful spirit and singing? The modern-day atheist at times could easily ask us Christians, “I thought you all were saved? Why don’t you look saved?” Attitude is a choice.

Judges 13:1-15; Psalms 97, 99; Acts 5:27-42; John 3:22-36

Happy Anniversary Bob & Linda McEvoy!

Happy Birthday Malcolm Rood!

Wednesday, August 12

John 4:1-26 *Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?” For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.* (v.9)

One day, years ago, I looked around and found myself living in a Christian bubble, interacting with mostly Christians all day—listening to Christian radio constantly, Bible studies, home groups, and church on Sundays. This is not where Jesus would have been hanging out because he wanted to touch those that did not know him.

We can’t witness the transformation God has done in our life if the world never sees us. To witness is not forcing people to hear Scripture we have memorized, but instead allowing them to see our transformed lives. I am a recovering alcoholic due to the grace of God. Daily, the world needs to see what God can do with a willing heart. Go out and show the world with a humble heart.

Judges 13:15-24; Psalms 101, 109; Acts 6:1-15

Happy Anniversary Pat & Nan O’Hara!

Thursday, August 13

Judges 14:1-19 *But his father and mother did not know that it was of the LORD—that He was seeking an occasion to move against the Philistines.* (v.4a)

This was when Samson was telling his parents to go and get a woman they disapproved of to be his wife. She pleased Samson, but not his parents. God had a plan.

So many times in my own life I have not seen God's plan in the circumstances around me. I protest what a friend or family member is doing because I think I'm a better author of the story than God. Sometimes I have looked at my own current situation or choices and failed to see God's plan. But God *does* have a plan to use *all* things for good.

Yes, it is wise to get good counsel and make well thought out choices. But even at times when you see your child rebel or go against your will, the story isn't over. You can't just judge a book by a few pages, or even a chapter. God's ending is always more interesting than what we could have written.

Psalm 105:1-22; Acts 6:15—7:16; John 4:27-42

Friday, August 14

Acts 7:17-29 *At this time Moses was born, and was well pleasing to God; and he was brought up in his father's house for three months.* (v.20)

What a wonderful declaration made over Moses when he was born: to be well pleasing to God. We all know the great trials Moses had in front of him and how God placed a hand on his shoulder.

What encourages me is when all of us were born God was well pleased. He speaks to us just like Moses through prayer, people, and Scripture. He has a plan. That love for each one of us never ends, no matter where we are in life. When I chose years of alcoholism over God, He never stopped pursuing me. God welcomed me home when I bent my knee to accept Christ as my Savior.

What if we made our children a healthy breakfast every morning, but they never stopped to eat it and instead headed out the door for junk food. God waits for us each morning with a meal for our heart of hearts. Sit with Him.

Judges 14:20—15:20; Psalm 102; John 4:43-54

Saturday, August 15

John 5:1-18 *Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.* (vv.8-9a)

Jesus was performing another miracle in a needy person's life. Yes, a miracle, but pay attention to the work the crippled man had done before Jesus arrived. Sometimes it is not just sitting on our hands and praying, but also an actionable task we must try.

The crippled man had struggled for 38 years to be first in the pool to be healed. Always too slow, he never quit trying. He was faithful to do his part even though he was at a disadvantage.

He couldn't heal himself. The man needed Jesus, but was the work he did earlier part of the miracle? Do you need a financial miracle today but haven't learned to budget properly? Do you need a relationship miracle today in your marriage but haven't followed through on the marriage counseling?

God needs all of us to be in action doing our work so He can bless us with His daily miracles.

Judges 16:1-14; Psalms 107:33-43, 108; Acts 7:30-43

Happy Birthday Dick Deppoliti and Michael Greear!

by S. M. Ford

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