

# *Good News Daily*

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## **Sunday, October 8**

Acts 12:1-17 *“The Lord has sent his angel and saved me.”* (v.11c NLT)

Peter has been imprisoned by King Agrippa, who placed four squads of four soldiers each (16 armed men!) to keep him in jail. The plan was to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

The Christians were gathered in earnest prayer for Peter, when an angel wakes him and says “Quick, get up.” The chains fall off his wrists and he walks out of prison with the angel past all the sleeping soldiers.

When Peter realizes that it is not a dream, he goes to where the Christians are praying. At first, the servant girl who answers Peter’s knock on the door leaves him standing in the street; but he keeps knocking and they quickly let him in.

So many times, we can look back on the events of our lives and say, with Peter, “The Lord sent His angel and saved me.” Praise the Lord and give thanks!

Thanks, Lord, for giving Your angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways (Psalm 91:11).

2 Kings 20:1-21; Psalm 118; Luke 7:11-17

## **Monday, October 9**

1 Corinthians 10:14—11:1 *For, “the earth is the LORD’s and everything in it.”* (v.26)

Yes, God has created a beautiful planet for us to enjoy, with many lovely foods, fruits, flowers, and animals for our pleasure, as well as mountains, valleys, rivers, streams, and oceans. We have such a variety of flora and fauna.

Are we good stewards of what He has given us or do we waste food and water, destroy wildlife, and allow erosion? Are we recycling or adding to landfills?

God has blessed us so mightily. Can we put more effort into saving our planet instead of wasting its resources?

Thank You, Lord, for our beautiful earth. Help us take good care of it.

2 Kings 21:1-18; Psalm 106:1-18; Matthew 8:28-34

## **Tuesday, October 10**

Matthew 9:1-8 *Some people brought to Jesus a paralyzed man on a mat.* (v.2)

Some caring friends bring the paralyzed man to Jesus for healing. What would we do without our wonderful friends? Our priest recently preached about being angels to our friends. He said we don't need to do miraculous things, just helpful things.

After the friends brought the paralyzed man, Jesus tells him, "Stand up, take your mat and go home!" because he was healed, and the man jumped up and went home! (vv.6-7)

We too can bring our friends to Jesus on Sunday mornings (and in my church to our Tuesday evening Healing Service) where they can be prayed for and anointed with holy oil for Jesus' healing love and resurrection power to make them well again.

Lord, help us be angels to our friends.

2 Kings 22:1-13; Psalms 120, 121, 122, 123; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 17-22

## **Wednesday, October 11**

Matthew 9:9-17 *When Jesus heard this, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do." Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."* (vv.12-13)

Matthew has just accepted Jesus' invitation to be his disciple. That evening, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to be his dinner guests, along with his fellow tax collectors and many notorious sinners. The religious leaders are indignant, but Jesus reminds them, "Healthy people do not need a doctor—sick people do."

We are all sick with sin, but we can come to God's "healing center" each time we worship, to be forgiven and cleaned and made well again. We partake of Jesus' body and blood in the Holy Eucharist—which we do in remembrance of him and to remind ourselves of his great forgiving love. After partaking of the heavenly banquet, we are sent back into the world to love and serve.

Thanks, Jesus, that you came to heal us and equip us to serve you and others.

2 Kings 22:14—23:3; Psalm 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

## **Thursday, October 12**

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 *There are different kinds of service in the Church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives but it is the same God who does the work through all of us.* (vv.5-6)

In the passage about spiritual gifts the apostle Paul tells us that some are teachers, some give wise advice, some are helpers, and some get others to work together. And it is the same Holy Spirit who inspires each of us.

We see the different gifts given to Lazarus's two sisters. Mary had the gift of worshipping Jesus and listening to his teaching (sitting at his feet and later bathing them with expensive perfume and wiping them with her hair). Martha had the gift of hospitality and saw that the meal was prepared and served.

In our church, we see the Choir practicing their music, the Flower Guild arranging the flowers that grace the altar, the Altar Guild preparing the linens and vestments, the ushers greeting the worshippers, the Sunday School teachers preparing their lessons for the children, the clergy studying God's Word to give us their sermons. Just as the body has many parts so the Body of Christ (the Church) uses all our gifts.

Thanks, Lord, for giving us the many abilities that make Your Church complete.

2 Kings 23:4-25; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Matthew 9:18-26

## **Friday, October 13**

Psalms 142 *I pray to you, O LORD. I say "You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life."* (v.5)

Amid all the tumult of our daily lives—the wars and terrorists, the fighting and natural disasters, I often feel like the psalmist who said, "I cry out to the LORD; I plead for the LORD's mercy" (v.1).

Watching the news or reading the newspaper just give me more cause for concern. Only as I read my Bible and pray, do I find comfort and hope for the future. Only knowing that I rest in God's mighty protection, do I find any consolation. Even though today is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, I know that God is in control!

Thank You, Lord, that You hold us in the hollow of Your hand (the Irish blessing).

2 Kings 23:36—24:17; Psalm 140; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26; Matthew 9:27-34

**Saturday. October 14**

Matthew 9:35—10:4 *He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”* (vv.37-38)

I have been reading the reports of The Jesus Film Project workers who go into remote villages, hang up a sheet at sundown, and use generators to show this wonderful film in the “heart languages” of citizens of the so-called “third world.” Many people are coming to faith through this dramatic telling of Jesus’ life and death for us.

The American Bible Society reports the great need for Bibles in China where many are coming to faith. Are you supporting any missionary work? If we cannot go to a mission field, we can certainly support the work with our prayers and our money.

Lord, I pray for more workers in Your harvest.

Jeremiah 35:1-19; Psalms 137, 144; 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:3

*by Jacqueline Littleford*

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