

Good News Daily

Volume XVIII June 10—June 16, 2018 Number 23

Sunday, June 10

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12 *I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on men; God gives a man wealth, possessions and honor, so that he lacks nothing his heart desires, but God does not enable him to enjoy them...* (vv.1-2a NIV)

When I read this passage in Ecclesiastes, I ponder about my level of contentment with the wealth I have accumulated. A statement has been attributed to a Romanian church leader who spent time in the West in which he said, “95% of believers who face the test of persecution pass it; 95% who face the test of prosperity fail it.”

The lesson I'm hearing is that no amount of money is going to make me satisfied or happy. Rich or poor, if I'm not connected with God, then there will be no contentment. So, if life is a struggle, I can still celebrate all the many blessings that I have received by sight and what I will receive by faith. God is my source of enjoyment and it is by His grace that he enables me to be aware of my many blessings.

Psalms 24, 29; Acts 10:9-23; Luke 12:32-40

Birthdays: Darla Cederberg, Barbara Davis, Elizabeth Earle

Anniversary: Virgil & Carolyn McCollum

Sunday's Calendar

	REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT
7:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:00 a.m.	Contemporary Family Worship Service
10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	Coffee Hour in Smith Hall after the 9 & 10:30 a.m. services

Today's Ministry: Stephen Ministry

Monday, June 11

Matthew 15:21-28 *Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."* (v.23)

Honestly, this is not my favorite Jesus story. His attitude toward the Canaanite woman almost seems racist: “It is not right to take the

Saturday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA “Hour of Power”
9:00 a.m.	Yard Sale
9:30 a.m.	AA Step Study for Women
12:00 p.m.	VBS SETUP
12:00 p.m.	Nar-Anon “Clean at Noon”
5:00 p.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
6:30 p.m.	Nar-Anon “Kleen N Krazy”
8:30 p.m.	Nar-Anon “Not Alone”

Today's Ministry: Ushers

by Larry Standish

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“Growing *into* Jesus - Reaching *out* with love”

The Clergy

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Am I any different than a morally up-right non-believer? What is setting me apart? OK, maybe I'm forsaking worldly status—that's not hard—not much status to forsake. How about worldly plans (if I had them, which I don't). The cross means death. Whether I discern that fact in a literal or metaphorical sense, it is inescapable. Jesus came to save me from my sin, and accepting him must include recognizing his right to rule my life. I am so far from perfection that having a loving God who would seek a relationship with me is in itself a mystery. I recognize who my Lord is. I pray for the strength to bear my cross.

Ecclesiastes 11:9—12:14; Psalm 69; Galatians 5:25—6:10

Birthday: Cindy Herlihy

Anniversaries: Werner & Sherry Olle, James & Magalen Webert, Mac Stuckey & Kendra Brown

Friday's Calendar

7:00 a.m.	AA “Hour of Power”
9:00 a.m.	A Way Out
9:30 a.m.	Life Group
10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
12:00 p.m.	VBS SETUP
8:00 p.m.	Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

Today's Ministry: Table Hoppers

Saturday, June 16

Numbers 3:1-13 *The LORD said to Moses, "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle."* (vv.5-7)

I delight in this passage because it reminds me of the privilege I have received as being a member of my church's Altar Guild. Being called out for service has been a blessing and a continuing ministry. The Levites were elevated to perform holy service, presumably, for their ability to channel their strong character in the service of God. Loyalty to Moses during the episode of the Golden Calf resulted in their reward of spiritual service that was lost to the firstborn of the other tribes.

Performing spiritual service is a reward in and of itself. My connection with the Altar Guild is an experience that connects me with each and every person attending our worship service. It is a service that provides an additional pathway to connect with the Spirit in prayer and with a grateful heart.

Psalms 75, 76; Galatians 6:11-18; Matthew 17:1-13

Birthday: James Korber, Nick Reynolds

Anniversary: Jon & Amy Drtina

children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” I had to read, necessarily, several commentaries to get a better understanding of the context of Christ’s ministry and what was transpiring at this time.

So here is my “take-away.” Faith is not an “easiest road to travel.” There are starts and stops and stumbling blocks. As the Canaanite woman demonstrated, persistence is required. I am discouraged when my requests are not answered in *my time*. God has a plan for me, in His time. In faith, I cry out to God. My prayers are heard by God. God, in His mercy, answers my prayers.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Galatians 4:12-20

Birthdays: Stephen Day, Brian DuPell, Lori Tucker

Anniversary: Scott & Heidi McNabb

Monday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
10:00 a.m. Apples to Apples
5:30 p.m. ACA Families
5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision

Today’s Ministry: Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, June 12

Ecclesiastes 8:14—9:10 *So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.* (v.15)

The author of Ecclesiastes speaks a lot about man’s perception of creation on earth as being meaninglessness and chaotic. That’s because he (and I) are creatures of God and cannot comprehend what God has done nor “what goes on under the sun.” The righteous men get what the wicked deserve and the wicked get what the righteous deserve. Good people suffer and bad people prosper. That’s not fair! And then, everyone dies and is forgotten in time! What kind of plan is that?

It’s not a plan. It is a test of faith. I have to live *in* the world and not be *of* the world. And so, I will get out of the judgment game and stop the second guessing of why, why, why. Let me live in contentment with the lean times as well as the fat times in my life. I want to live my life in joy and with a peace which passes all understanding. Amen.

Psalms 61, 62; Galatians 4:21-31; Matthew 15:29-39

Birthdays: Audrey Cobelli, Janet Warren

Anniversary: Herbert & Shirley Clarke

Tuesday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
9:30 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing
2:00 p.m. Jane’s Group
5:30 p.m. VBS Training
6:00 p.m. Overeaters’ Anonymous

Today’s Ministry: Sunday School

Wednesday, June 13

Matthew 16:1-12 *Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.* (v.12)

Yeah, I know it’s not funny, but I always get a chuckle out of how “obtuse” the apostles were at times. Actually, it just makes me feel a little better about myself when I eventually realize how limited my own understanding, action, statement, etc. has been.

The teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees was symptomatic of the old ways, and the apostles, as well as everyone else, were susceptible to their logic and persuasion. There are competing voices in our churches today. Divisions, based on denominations, new learnings, new understandings and heresy, are prevalent. As I continue my study of the Bible and learn more about the theology of my faith, it is apparent that effort and diligence is required. So, I point myself to the words of Paul in 2 Timothy when he reminds the reader, “Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” Great advice that I will follow.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-18; Psalm 72; Galatians 5:1-15

Birthday: Tom Hickey

Anniversaries: John & Barbara Godfrey, Richard & Barbara LaMirand

Wednesday’s Calendar

6:30 a.m. Men’s Bible Study
7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
4:45 p.m. Mary’s Kitchen
5:30 p.m. AA “Daily Reflections”
5:30 p.m. VBS Training
6:00 p.m. Life Groups
8:30 p.m. Nar-Anon “Klean and Crazy”

Today’s Ministry: Sunday School Teachers

Thursday, June 14

Galatians 5:16-24 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.* (vv.22-23)

Are the fruits of the Spirit exclusive to the Spirit? Do non-believers (and even evil doers) get to enjoy the qualities of love, joy, and self-control? Apparently so. Why is it that I lose my self-control and my gentleness? That I stomp about the world in my abruptness?

Maybe I am a little too hard on myself and a little too naive when I observe other people. They probably get their fair share of difficulty, frustration, and shame. The lesson I am getting from Paul in his exhortation to the Galatians is that there is a conflict (a constant and ever-present conflict) between my flesh and my spirit. When I was much younger, I was of the mind that such conflicts would eventually, you know, just go away. Well, that’s one more thing I was wrong about.

This reading ends with, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” It’s time to “walk the walk” and not just “talk the talk.” I’m not sure that I have crucified my flesh of its passions and desires, but I do know that I have experienced more and more of the fruits of the Spirit. And if that is taking place in my life, perhaps my flesh is moving ever so closer to the cross.

Ecclesiastes 11:1-8; Psalms 70, 71; Matthew 16:13-20

Birthdays: Tom Baker, Brad Thayer, Dave Von Holle, Nancy Ward

Anniversary:

Thursday’s Calendar

7:00 a.m. AA “Hour of Power”
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
12:00 p.m. VBS SETUP
5:30 p.m. ACA Men’s Group
7:00 p.m. Al-Anon “Stepping Stones”

Today’s Ministry: Sunday Worship Assistants

Friday, June 15

Matthew 16:21-28 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.”* (vv.24-25)

I read this passage and condemn myself. I seek a comfortable life for myself and not the cross. Jesus is telling his disciples (that’s me included) that this world is to be denied. I can barely deny myself an ice cream treat after a big meal.