

NGood News Daily
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

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Sunday, September 2

Matthew 5:1-12 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* (vv.3-4 RSV)

When I was growing up, I was taught to shoot for the moon even if you hit a cabbage. What I found later was the moon is not mine, and not much would fit into my kingdom of self. No matter how hard I tried, I could not get my family to get it straight the way I wanted it.

When I later became aware that the kingdom of God is *not* the kingdom of self, I had to reevaluate. The things I thought I wanted were not the things I wanted. I thought I wanted them until I had them in hand.

God knows what I really want and opens the door for me when I am willing to accept what He is trying to give me. When I am willing to recognize my own emptiness, He fills me up with His life; and I can know what it is know the King and walk with Him in His kingdom as we pray as He taught us: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

When I come to Him with my need, He meets it with His grace, and I am the blessed one of whom He speaks.

Job 11:1-9, 13-20; Psalms 148, 149, 150; Revelation 5:1-14

Include in your prayers: Cindy Croushore, Carol Layton, Sandy, Sam, Mirabelle Wrist, Janie Greene, Joey Mitchell, Wally Bates, Kaye Bischoff, Erin McClain, Steve, Drew Fogg, Mark Connell, Rocky Albrect, , Pat Hegarty, Trish Hegarty, Tom Hegarty, Joe Hegarty, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Michael, Tegan, Marcia Pollard, Pat Davenport, Lynn Smith, Sebastian Terrell, Stan and Shirley Connell, Uppuluri Rajesh, Sean Clegg, Jim Long, The Gooley family, Mark Seymour & family

Monday, September 3

John 8:21-32 *Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”* (vv.31-32)

When I first started looking into the Christian Faith as a truly viable alternative to the world’s values and goals, I followed two or three professionals whom I considered wise in the faith. Each of them had a viewpoint, but they did not agree on some of the details that interested me, so I decided to try Jesus.

When I began to read his teaching, I began to see another dimension to the Christian Faith. Jesus is real and he is here to be known. That decision demanded that I learn prayer as a dialog and not just talking to him. When he began to speak to me, I found that I had to try out what he told me to see if it was truth or just nice thinking.

My experience at that point brought me into a knowledge of the Lord that I had not had before, and I began to come to know him as he talked with me. I have come to believe that he is both practical and truthful, and that he is making me free as I seek his will and walk it out with him.

Job 12:1-6, 13-25; Psalm 25; Acts 11:19-30

Include in your prayers: Nico Clothier, Julia Montgomery, Sarah Lawler, Rob Steiner, Perry, Pam Heatley, Vi Matthews, Jimmy Gustafson, Carlos Salmán, Arnie Selna, Stephen Johnson, Jr. & Jennifer Corson, Jenny Bischoff, Guy Carpenter, Scott Breuer, Althea Lewis, Amanda Smith, Tom Johnson, Susie, Todd Baron, Thenesa Marclante, Tiffany, Ian and Matt, Katie & Tim, Bob Dipilla, Daniel Bishop, Ralph Martinelli, Natalie Lazano, Dan Berg and girls, Bob Meadows, Sue and Sam Schott, Brandon Juarez, Kathy Clegg, Hartel family, Janice Kell, Magdalena Lovejoy, Marj Johnson

Tuesday, September 4

John 8:33-47 *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say unto you every one who commits sin is a slave to sin.”* (v.34)

Anyone who has realized the experience of habitual sin knows the meaning of these words and knows that they are true. As one who has spent time trying to break bad habits, and failed to be able to do so in my own strength, the promise of Jesus that I will be set free when I know the truth and walk it out with him is almost beyond belief—until we try it.

For me it has meant freedom from bondage to tobacco, alcohol, and foul language—to mention a few. Now, if he will just set me free from putting off working on things and set me free to do them when he gives them to me to do. As I struggle to become his disciple, he struggles with me to make me what he wants me to be.

Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27; Psalms 26, 28; Acts 12:1-17

Include in your prayers: Karin Armbruster, Ricardo Acuña, Charlie Gasperino, Trey Harris, Joanna Aras, Marilyn Lyren, Margaret Nicholas, Kay Bailey, Debra Lasek and Noel Lasek, Frank Lepore, Mustapick family, Steve, Jan and Lois, Tom and Jan Bradley, Peter Pawlikowski, Bob and Barbara Thorne, Elaine S., Barbara Nelson

Wednesday, September 5

John 8:47-59 *“He who is of God hears the words of God; the reason you do not hear them is because you are not of God.”* (v.47)

I remember when quoting Scripture was a game to prove who was the holiest. The focus of the game was on the others as they tried to out-quote the rest and be declared the wisest, holiest, and proudest.

When I began to ask what the Scripture was all about, there were some new thoughts that came to bear. Why bother to mess with Scripture? Leave it alone and let’s get on about real life. But something else began to become obvious. If the world depends on human intellect to work out its problem, we are in deep trouble.

If God can be known, He is the *only* hope I can see. It was as I sought to come to know God that His word came to me as Light in the darkness of the world. I found that I must add prayer to the Scripture, and give God an opportunity to speak to me. Then I was able to hear His word.

Job 12:1, 14:1-22; Psalm 38; Acts 12:18-25

Include in your prayers: Leslie Hahn, Patty Hart, Richard and Margaret Downing, Lance Block, Valentine Houyvet, Rodney Bivens, Helen, Sue Drinkwater, Bernie Parker, Amy Astion, Gerard and Andrea & their families, Kelly McCarthy, Kim Jackson Mattraw and family, Tara Polk,

Yvonne Reiner, Joe Bishop, Katie Kish, Lori Zenobia, Connie and Joe D'Alessandro, Richie Keen, Helen Caterer, Joy Skeffington

Thursday, September 6

John 9:1-17 *As he passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered. "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work."* (vv.1-4)

There are many who think with the mind of the disciples before Jesus opened their eyes. What did someone do wrong that made God punish them with some ailment? I think sometimes God allows someone to get sick in order for them to come to Him and let Him touch them with His healing love.

I can honestly say that I am thankful for my colon cancer in 1987. It was discovered just before my two-month sabbatical that I had planned and arranged. The surgery fell in the middle of the first month, and I was back on the job at the end of the second month.

The revelation I received in reading Bernie Segal's *Love Medicine and Miracles* and listening to some Jim Glennon tapes, taught me to find and pray for the stress at the root of the cancer, and it has been productive in ministry to others with cancer. I have seen it as something that God used to teach me something that I have been able to use in helping others.

Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16; Psalm 37:1-18; Acts 13:1-12

Include in your prayers: Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Shirley Hazen, Fran Labossiere, Howard Smith, Patricia Herbert, Ryan Miller, Nancy Scarpa, Laura Davis, , The Kinard family, Laura, John Schmidt, Rosemary Gerstenberg, Adam Daily, Sean and Becky Talbot, Rebecca Hance

Friday, September 7

John 9:18-41 *Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this, and they said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."* (vv.39-41)

One of the greatest problems of the Church through the ages has been the rise of individuals who will come up with some idea that is different from the rest of the Body and draw people away to practice the faith their way. The result has been fragmentation.

When we turn away from prayer to argument, we set ourselves up to be in the same class with the Pharisees: "We know the truth. You had better straighten up."

It seems to me that we are called to pray instead, "Lord, show us Your will in all of this confusion. Make it clear to all of us so that we might be led into all truth and find the unity that we need to show the world that we are Your Body, that we are one, and that You live in us and through us for the world for which You were willing to die."

Job 19:1-7, 14-27; Psalm 31; Acts 13:13-25

Include in your prayers: George Dzama III, Keith Van Cleave, Phil Toren, Wendy Williams, Nan Hanaway, Dru Angst, Richard Dunstan, Cristian Clothier, Carley, Tamlyn, Steve Cella,

Marie Buller, Sheila Dionne, Baby Fagnano, Tim Gooley, Frank LePore, Cameron, Wallace family, Pam Gorman, Raymond Longo, Dennis Shanahan, , Manny Gomer, Delores Osborne, Mary Ann Goodfield, Fred Best

Saturday, September 8

John 10:1-18 *But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.* (vv.2-4)

I heard a story once that spoke to me about these words that I have come to see as important. A tour guide in the Middle East shared with his group that shepherds in that area do not drive the sheep or use sheep dogs to drive them. They lead the sheep and the sheep follow.

As they passed through a small town, one of the group saw someone driving sheep up the street, and called it to the guide's attention, "I thought you said the shepherds here lead the sheep. That one is driving his sheep." The tour guide looked and replied, "Oh, that's not the shepherd. He's the butcher."

Jesus has come to lead those of us who know his voice and are willing to follow where he leads. He leaves that decision up to us.

Job 22:1-4, 21—23:7; Psalms 30, 32; Acts 13:26-43

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: including: Harold Fitch IV, Sarah Fitch, Gregory Campbell, Nicholas Beswick, Brandon Baila, Dean Joseph Parker, Capt. Griffin Bird, Austin and Mary Willis, Lieutenant Ryan Morie, Houston, General John Shepherd, Russell Clark, Peniel Reid, and their families. Pray for our enemies; for peace, justice and reconciliation in all places where there is conflict, especially among the peoples of the Middle East. Please pray for Todd and Patsy McGregor and the people of Madagascar.

by Al Durrance

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