

***Good News Daily***  
***The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd***

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**Sunday, August 19**

Mark 5:25-34 ...*because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."* (v.28 NIV)

I collect antiques as a hobby. There is nothing wrong with that except I sometimes yield to the temptation to neglect prayer and charitable activities in the excitement of a search and negotiation for an interesting item. Then I'm angry with myself and ashamed.

The temptation to overspend time works in me like a noiseless file, as one holy person put it, quietly rasping away at my resolve to keep a reasonable balance. Sometimes temptation appeals to my emotions like Delilah wheedling Sampson for his secret as a pledge of his love: "If you *really* wanted this item you'd spend more time looking." Other times temptation is a swarm of bees with all kinds of logical arguments: "Keep looking; if someone is selling now, it might be gone before you find it."

I understand in a small way what the woman with the 12-year issue of blood must have felt: simply overwhelmed by the emotion of shame and the conflicting logic of her doctors. Lord, let me touch your garment by faith every day and be healed.

Judges 16:15-31; Psalm 118; 2 Corinthians 13:1-11

***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, Irene McAviney, Mrs. Jean Gantzer Ring, Mark Connell, Alice Hopkinson and family, Rocky Albrect, Kristen Robertson, Paul Schweizer, Pat Hegarty, Trish Hegarty, Tom Hegarty, Joe Hegarty, Patricia Malloy, Patricia Vreeland, Michael, Chuck, Bernie Oliver, Tegan, Marcia Pollard, Pat Davenport, Robert and Nancy Hart, Lynn Smith, Sebastian Terrell, Stan and Shirley Connell

**Monday, August 20**

Acts 7:44—8:1a *Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.* (v.60)

Take no vengeance. With his last breath Stephen pleaded for his slayers. Christians did not take revenge on Paul even though he was an accomplice in the brutal murder of Stephen and others.

Jesus repealed the ancient Lex Talionis, the Law of Vengeance that sanctions an eye for an eye and a life for a life. Can I as Christ's follower refrain from revenge against someone who would kill my loved ones or me? I'd like to think myself civilized enough to reject murder altogether—even the thought of it. On the other hand, what about my cruel put-downs of those who insult me? What about the guilt trips I occasionally lay on my wife and children when they disappoint me? What about the times I disparage people I don't like behind their backs? Isn't that revenge?

There's more. Jesus commanded me to love my neighbor as myself. This is an obligation to behave positively toward offenders, not just avoid acting negatively. Take no vengeance and forgive as well! Only with God's considerable help is that even conceivable for me.

Judges 17:1-13; Psalm 106:1-18; John 5:19-29

***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, Annie Beebe, Adam, Alice, Guy Carpenter, Scott Breuer, Althea Lewis, Sally Loetell, Taylor/Block family, Benedette and Mark, Peter Mariades, Deborah Bowen, Mervin Williams and son Hunter, Amanda Smith, Bill Lively, Tom Johnson, Susie, Susan Miller, Dan Burg, Brooke Hartman, Todd Baron, Thesa Marclante, Tiffany, Ian and Matt, Katie & Tim, Bob Dipilla, Daniel Bishop

## **Tuesday, August 21**

Psalms 121 *My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.* (v.2)

The psalmist in verse one asks where his help comes from and answers his question in verse two. His help comes from God. It has taken me a lifetime to thoroughly engage with that answer. I am still prone to look to myself first for help in times of trouble or when an opportunity opens up. Maybe it's my individualistic personality; but most likely, it's my pride.

Last Lent my spiritual advisor suggested I do a spiritual exercise. I was to look back over my life and note the times the Lord had intervened in some way so that change happened. What an eye-opener! In looking back over time, I found that God has been in the midst of every change in my life that I can remember. In the good times God has been with me providing opportunities and encouragement. In the difficult times God has been active in bringing good out of the bad.

Judges 18:1-15; Psalms 120, 122, 123; Acts 8:1-13; John 5:30-47

***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, Ashley M. Muñoz, Dombrovski Family, Frank Lepore, Mustapick family, Gus West, Steve, Jan and Lois, Tom and Jan Bradley, Wendy Frezza, Jeff Breiler, Barry Horenstein, Vader and Annie, Patty Kidwell, Peter Pawlikowski, Janet Hall, Rose F., Bob and Barbara Thorne, Elaine S., Barbara Nelson

## **Wednesday, August 22**

Psalms 119:145-176 *I rejoice in your promise like one who finds great spoil.* (v.162)

God's promise to me is that I will be saved through faith. To me, salvation means that God will make me whole—a complete person, being all I can be. When that occurs, I will be fully united with God in love without losing my sense of self. This union is now my goal.

Half a lifetime ago, union with God was the furthest thing from my mind. My gods were Fame and Fortune. Then God showed Himself to me in ways only God could and I realized that Fame and Fortune could be good as far as they went, but were certainly the lesser gods.

When I was awakened to God, He led me to His followers through books and personal contacts. The followers explained how sin separates me from God, my fellow humans, and my environment. But, miracle of miracles, He sent His Son to demonstrate how genuine repentance removes sin and restores good relationships. All I need do is have faith. Why would I not rejoice? Where would I be without God and His promise?

Judges 18:16-31; Acts 8:14-25; John 6:1-15

***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, Seth and Sophia, Dennis Uthe, Lori Zenobia, Connie and Joe D’Alessandro, Dale Ann Lawler, Richie Keen, Olivia and Vincent, Phil Hart, O’Neal Bardin, III, Helen Caterer, Joy Skeffington

### **Thursday, August 23**

Acts 8:26-40 *“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. (v.31)*

The eunuch was reading from the book of Isaiah and was smart enough to know that Scripture requires interpretation. Thanks to God, Philip was there to help him. I sincerely wish that a Philip clone had been right there when my conversion experiences occurred. Instead, I tended to read some of the wrong books and consult the wrong people. I got the idea that the Bible was infallible and that Scripture was all that was necessary. After all, went the logic, if we can’t depend upon the Bible to be infallible and literal (except for transcribing errors), we might as well give up. I was badly misled.

My mind changed as I began learning about scriptural incongruities and wondering if God, who is Love, is really as bloodthirsty as a literal reading of the Hebrew Bible would have Him. Later on, as I matured I began to understand Scripture as only one of as many as six elements of theology—Scripture, tradition, experience, revelation, culture, and reason. Things began to make better sense.

Job 1:1-22; Psalms 131, 132, 133; John 6:16-27

***Include in your prayers:*** Ruth Dans, Kristi Bronkema, Debbie Rannie, Lois Berning, Grace Wasko, Paul Gerstenberger, Shirley Hazen, Fran Labossiere, Pat Pinckney, Howard Smith, Patricia Herbert, Ryan Miller, Carina DeSimone, Susan Sakin, Timothy May, Rose Hawley, Bob Barnes, Eileen Kerwick, Alondrea and Derrick, Pat Cohen, Bob, Reno family, Nancy Scarpa, Laura Davis, Wade and Cheryl, Greg Greenwald, Molly, Luke and Jonny, Savannah Vader, Bella and Sophie Barton, Carol and Bert French, Abigale French, The Kinard family, Laura, John Schmidt, Rosemary Gerstenberg, Adam Daily, Sean and Becky Talbot, Rebecca Hance

### **Friday, August 24**

Acts 9:1-9 *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. (v.3)*

Beware the downside potential of fireworks. My conversion experience came during mid-life. It involved a frightening but insightful dream repeated three times, a vision that put me on my knees in tears of gratitude, a sense of love descending upon me so overwhelming that I had to ask God to stop, and more. Exciting? You bet!

The first downside: I concluded that God loved me more than others because of these favors. Soon I would be writing a best-selling book to lead other less gifted souls to the Lord. The Christian lecture circuit would be next! My naiveté and pride led to big letdowns as God weaned me from the

milk of spectacular experiences to the solid food of daily Christian life. God knocked me off my horse initially because it took that to get my attention, not because I was better.

The second downside: regret that I wasted so many years settling for the wasteland of secular life without Christ. But regret, too, is chasing after wind. I now rejoice that I met him when I did and not later.

Job 2:1-13; Psalms 140, 142; John 6:27-40

***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, Diane's family, Sheila Dionne, Richie Parsons and Suzi James, Stacy, Madeline Hanlon, Muñoz family: Darcy, Roland, Josh, Gladys Muñoz, Barbara Davis, Baby Fagnano, Tim Gooley, Pat Clipp, Linda Roach, Patrick Muise, Frank LePore, Cameron, Wallace family, Pam Gorman, Riley and Padilla family, Raymond Longo, Dennis Shanahan, Elsie Southwick, Manny Gomer, Delores Osborne, Mary Ann Goodfield, Katie, Goobler family, Fred Best

### **Saturday, August 25**

Psalm 137 *By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.* (v.1)

I almost always read this sentence and the rest of the psalm with tears in my eyes because I substitute earth for Babylon and heaven for Zion. I weep not because I remember heaven, but because I do not. Yet I still yearn for heaven because God has revealed it to me in numerous ways. It seems a paradox; he instilled within me this great desire for heaven and at the same time gave me a will to live so that I would remain alive on earth. Why? Why am I here and not there? The best I am able to come up with is that earth is heaven's college; I am here to learn to love. I am given endless opportunities to love: my wife and family, my community, others the world over, the environment, and even myself. These opportunities constantly provide lessons on love for me. Lord, help me be an excellent student.

Job 3:1-26; Psalm 144; Acts 9:10-19a; John 6:41-51

***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 Herbert Kierulff***

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