

Good News Daily

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Sunday, June 16

Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.* (v.11 NIV)

I've recently spent seven glorious days and nights with my husband at Waimea Bay on Oahu. When I read this psalm, I couldn't help but think that the author must have spent some time at a place such as this.

I'll always remember our snorkeling adventure around the bay. The sun was overhead, which lighted our way. There were magnificently colored fish; the water was warm and crystal clear. The surge of the sea rocked us over the beautiful coral reef...and the only sound I was aware of was that of my own deep, rhythmic breathing. In a single moment, I felt I was a part of the heavens, the earth, the sea, and all that was in it.

Thanks, God, for Your good earth, the sea, and all that is in it.

2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Psalm 93; Revelation 15:1-8; Matthew 18:1-14

Monday, June 17

Psalm 80 *Restore us, O God; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.* (v.3)

Oh, how the sun shined on us in Hawaii! However, there were two days in which the sun was covered by tropical rain clouds. During these two cloud-covered days, it occurred to me that the sun reminds me of the Son. I was warmed by the fact that, even though I couldn't see the sun (Son), the fact remains that the sun (Son) is always there—rain or shine, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.

Son of God, thank you for your shining presence in our lives.

1 Samuel 1:1-20; Acts 1:1-14; Luke 20:9-19

Tuesday, June 18

Luke 20:19-26 *He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."* (v.25b)

I give thanks to God. Thanks for the beauty and wonder of this tropical island of Oahu. Thank You for warm, soft sand in which to bury our toes. Thank You for the mild trade-winds that gently move the sultry air. Thank You for the warm salt water in which to float. Thank You for the delicate fragrance of beautiful flowers. Thank You for the colorful turquoise sea, the gentle night air, and the melodic sound of waves breaking on the shore. I am very grateful for all my senses in which to enjoy my Hawaiian vacation.

“Give to God the things that are God’s.” God, I give You my sincere thanks.

1 Samuel 1:21—2:11; Psalm 78:1-39; Acts 1:15-26

Wednesday, June 19

Acts 2:1-21 *“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”* (v.17a)

I take great comfort in this line from Acts. Isn’t it nice to know that God pours out his spirit on *all* people? I guess that means even people like me. People who have been divorced. People who have held a grudge. People who occasionally drink too much wine at dinner. People who are selfish; who get caught up in the idea of “but what’s in it for me?” People who—*only once or twice*—have gossiped about a family member or a friend (*people who lie!*).

Thanks, God, for not picking and choosing, but for pouring out your spirit on all people. Our challenge: to accept your spirit and embrace your grace.

1 Samuel 2:12-26; Psalm 119:97-120; Acts 2:1-21; Luke 20:27-40

Thursday, June 20

Psalm 34 *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.* (v.18)

Truly, it is when I am brokenhearted that I feel closest to God. When my life is moving in a positive direction, I give a token “thanks” to God for various things and people in my life. But it is when I am in dire straits, when I am at the end of my rope—when I feel sad, scared, defeated, and brokenhearted—that the presence of God shines through. When I was going through my divorce in 1999 (“Oh, my God, I’m now a single mother with two young children? How did this happen? How will I cope? What should I do first?”), I was at a low point in my life. It was during this painfully frightening era that I turned to God, which, by the way, happened to be the best thing that has ever happened to me. This terrifying experience turned out to be one of the most positive events in my life. Go figure.

I was crushed in spirit, but He saved me in my darkest hour. Thanks be to God.

1 Samuel 2:27-36; Psalm 83; Acts 2:22-36; Luke 20:41—21:4

Friday, June 21

Psalm 88 *May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.* (v.2)

In his book *Letters to Marc About Jesus*, Henri Nouwen writes: “God’s way can only be grasped in prayer. The more you listen to God speaking within you, the sooner you will hear that voice inviting you to follow the way of Jesus.”

I'm on my knees right now—with an open ear and an open heart. Come, Lord Jesus. Turn your ear to my cry and give me the gift of awareness so that I may hear your gentle voice within.

1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 2:37-47; Luke 21:5-19

Saturday, June 22

Acts 4:32—5:11 *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.* (v.33)

I can't help but think that this verse from Acts not only applied to the apostles then, but it applies to us today as well. Much grace is upon us now. Our job is to be intentional—to be actively seeking ways in which God's grace enters our lives and how the Holy Spirit transforms us. I don't know that He changes our situations, but I do believe He changes our hearts. Our job: create quiet time to simply listen.

Open our hearts and souls to Your amazing grace, Lord.

1 Samuel 4:1b-11; Psalms 87, 90; Luke 21:20-28

by Kate Winans

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