

Good News Daily

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Sunday, November 10

Luke 14:12-24 *Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”* (vv.13-14 NIV)

Often, I feel like I am asking the Lord for a full storeroom, enough so I would not need Him any longer. Foolish isn't it. Yet I wonder about having enough. The thoughts turn into angst, then into needs, then into idols. This constant worry takes me past the wonders of each and every day. I miss His daily insights and miss seeing a little bit of heaven here on earth. I am trying to take it one day at a time. Leaning in and listening. Starting each day reaching out to Him and asking Him to guide my steps. Praising Him as I go along. I am finding Him more often in this daily routine. I am seeing His leading in ways that I had not seen before. If he knows my name, he knows my needs. Keeping a full storeroom is not one of the needs.

Ezra 10:1-17; Psalms 93, 96; Acts 24:10-21

Monday, November 11

Revelation 18:1-8 *“For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”* (v.3)

Whether it is Babel or our town today, money and other luxuries have become our gods. Money has become the power behind the throne. We cannot serve both God and money. If you are in business, then run it with ethics and godly purposes. If you are in politics try not to be totally influenced by the money given to you, clearly expecting something in return. Truth wins as the Bible reminds us, but doing so comes with a price in the moment. Be truthful in your dealings, have a biblical perspective in your trade, honor your constituents with the truth. The town of Babel fell due to its unrelenting interest in wealth. In and of itself money is not evil. Our worship of it is. Use your providence with guidance and in all circumstances remember the one who gave it to you.

Nehemiah 9:1-25; Psalm 80; Matthew 15:1-20

Tuesday, November 12

Nehemiah 9:26-38 *“But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”* (v.31)

Often, I am comforted with the notion that “He knows my name.” If God numbers the hairs on my head, how much more is He concerned about my well-being. God is gracious and merciful. Take comfort in the fact that He will not abandon you. Friends and family will come up short at times and will certainly disappoint you in some way. Relax, take comfort that He knows your name and remains close to you—even when you turn your back on Him. Speak to Him, tell Him your weaknesses and concerns. Take delight and comfort that He is gracious and merciful.

Psalms 78:1-39; Revelation 18:9-20; Matthew 15:21-28

Wednesday, November 13

Psalms 119:97-120 *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.* (v.105)

For the most part the “word” was what had been spoken to the prophets...maybe even as narrow as to the specific laws. I read this verse in a broader context. I think of the word as what is written in the entire Bible. I don’t read the Bible as often and as much as I should. But, when I do, I am always encouraged with the relevance and application that comes from the stories and information. Scripture becomes the lamp and light for my path. Study of the written word, along with prayer, helps me to discern the path.

As a reminder, reading, studying the word, and prayer need to be followed by a time to be quiet and to listen. Reading gives us the information and framework. Prayer relays or offers our specific questions and gives us the opportunity to communicate to God. The listening and quiet time gives Him the opportunity to communicate with us. Study, pray, then listen.

Nehemiah 7:7b—8:3, 5-18; Revelation 18:21-24; Matthew 15:29-39

Thursday, November 14

Matthew 16:1-12 *Then they understood that he was telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.* (v.12)

I chose this verse as a follow-up to yesterday’s writing. How often I hear people say, “and God said” only to find that He did *not* say that, or it is nowhere to be found in Scripture. How do we know what is true and what is not? We are all surrounded with people thoughts, not biblical thoughts. We are engulfed by false teaching—man’s inclinations or interpretations.

How can we guard against false teaching? Read the Bible. Not only does it provide the guidance we need, but it clarifies the truth from the fiction. More reading has increased my steadfastness through knowledge and confidence about what to do and how to do it. If you are not feeling comfortable about your circumstances, start reading Scripture. You will be surprised (but shouldn’t be) that problems start to disappear or will become viewed with a different perspective. I repeat an old saying: “Pray last, get nowhere fast.” More often now I say, “Read little, understand little.”

1 Chronicles 10:1-14; Psalms 23, 27, 83; Revelation 19:1-10

Friday, November 15

Revelation 19:11-16 *Coming out of his mouth is sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.* (v.15)

We live in a world of injustice. We question why bad things happen to good people. I don't think of it as happening to good people *or* bad people. Bad things happen. We live in a fallen world. You and I are *all* sinners. I do admit that I want justice now. I want inequities resolved right away.

This verse reminds me that God does deliver justice, but, in His timeframe, not mine. I am not to be impatient. He is in control and, in due time, those who have delivered injustice will confront Him. He is gracious and He provides mercy—and when He comes again, He will deliver justice. In the meantime, go about your business serving Him and doing what He has commanded. God is merciful, but He is also just. Just in his timeframe, not ours.

1 Chronicles 11:1-25; Psalm 88; Matthew 16:13-20

Saturday, November 16

1 Chronicles 13:1-14 *The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God.* (v.10)

As with other writings this week, and with the concept of sin in the Garden of Eden, we are reminded about the consequences of disobedience. Uzzah was reminded about touching the ark—as Eve was reminded about not eating from the forbidden tree. While I am aware that our Lord is merciful and gracious, He is also just. Often, we lack awareness of God becoming angry. I, in particular, don't like to think about the justice side of disobedience. Sin separates us from God, and we need to keep in mind that sin can also come with consequences. We want justice, but not for our own actions.

Fearing the Lord is not necessarily a bad place to be. Fear can be the awareness of God's power and might. Fear can be the reminder to do the right thing. We know God demonstrates mercy and grace, but we need to be reminded that if we are truly walking with Him and for His purposes, we should not be engaging in disobedience.

Go and serve the Lord with gladness of heart and with pure intentions. He is merciful, *but* he is also just.

Psalms 87, 90; Revelation 20:1-6; Matthew 16:21-28

by Jim Rogers

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