

# *Good News Daily*

**Volume XX**

**July 12-18, 2020**

**Number 28**

## **Sunday, July 12**

Joshua 1:1-18 *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you.* (v.3 KJV)

My first salaried job while still in college was assisting an editor of Sunday School literature for a large Christian publishing business. I wanted to be a writer but was afraid that, given an assignment by her, I wouldn't be able to think of anything to say. Mary Tregenza smiled kindly at me and said, "I find that inspiration is like water from a well. When you need it and reach for it, it's there."

God made that promise to Joshua as he inherited leadership of the Israelites making their way to the Promised Land. The land was there, waiting for them. God was waiting, too. The gift would not be forced upon them. They would need to take the steps, one after the other, to have possession of it.

It is the offer given to us as God takes us into a new week. We simply have to be strong and courageous—and step out.

Psalm 148, 149, 150; Acts 21:3-15; Mark 1:21-27

## **Monday, July 13**

Joshua 2:1-14 *For we have heard....* (v.10a)

Serendipity is an unplanned, fortunate discovery.

Silly Putty resulted from a failure to make synthetic rubber. Sensors to prevent automobile air bags from killing children came out of a trick chair built for magicians Penn and Teller. A scientist patented the idea behind microwave ovens after noticing that radar equipment melted candy in his pocket. A hunter took a closer look at the cocklebur stuck to his pants and dog, and invented Velcro. They weren't expecting what they saw. But they paid attention to what they did see. And they made a decision.

At first, Rahab thought it was just two more customers at her door. But she had heard stories about the strange people making their way through the land. She was paying attention and it saved her life and the life of her family. You never know what you're going to see next. But when you do, if you've been paying attention, God will give you an opportunity.

Psalm 25; Romans 11:1-12; Matthew 25:1-13

## **Tuesday, July 14**

Matthew 25:14-30 *To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.* (v.15a ESV)

I have two younger brothers. I live in Florida, enjoying the same sunny weather year-round. My brothers live farther north and see (suffer) normal winters. One brother worked for a church denomination and has a son working for an international children's mission. The other has his doctorate and works with pharmaceutical companies as a consultant in disease-fighting drug research. When we talk about our various lives, my middle brother likes to use the bell curve to describe us, with the high point in the middle. I tell him it is pathetic that he cannot tell the difference between an upside-down *U* and a capital *L*. Our youngest brother tries to describe an algorithmic equation that favors the third variable, but we can't understand him. We're in the same family, leading very different lives.

God calls, appoints, and provides in different measures to each of His servants. He does the final evaluations. When Peter asked Jesus, "What about him?" (John 21:21), Jesus told him not to bother worrying about it. He's got it covered.

Joshua 2:15-24; Psalm 26, 28; Romans 11:13-24

### **Wednesday, July 15**

Psalm 38 *I am feeble and crushed; I groan because of the tumult of my heart. O Lord, all my longing is before you; my sighing is not hidden from you.* (vv.8-9)

I have been invited to pray for others in need all my life. I found this increasingly difficult to do with much sympathy. One tear and one pain, reported second-hand, soon feels like another.

Five years ago, a stroke left me home-bound. "I am feeble and crushed." But since I entered this season of life, I've noticed how many brothers and sisters are sharing the same path. My wife's and my prayer list is longer than at any time in our lives. A friend's son dropped out of high school when Lyme's Disease crippled him. A daughter began home schooling when she came into danger at her local school. Friends deal with elderly parents losing physical and mental agility. Our experience has intensified our intercessory prayer for others in worse situations around the world. I'm sorry it took this to get my attention properly focused. "But for you, O LORD, do I wait; it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer."

Joshua 3:1-13; Romans 11:25-36; Matthew 25:31-46

### **Thursday, July 16**

Psalm 37:1-18 *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.* (v.5)

Documentary film maker Darren Wilson had 24 hours in Jerusalem to shoot final scenes for his movie about sharing God's love. He wanted to film something inside the sacred Islamic Al-Asqa mosque on the Temple Mount. Access is forbidden to non-Muslims. It was impossible. So instead he

followed a young Christian minister around the streets of Jerusalem as the man walked up to strangers to pray with them, often seeing them healed of various ailments. After talking with one grateful Christian they met and telling about their film project, Darren mentioned his wish. The man was quiet and then said, “Come with me. I know the man in charge of security for the mosque.” For the rest of the incredible story, watch the film *Father of Lights*. Things that are impossible for us are easily accomplished when we trust in the Lord and let Him handle all the details.

Joshua 3:14—4:7; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 26:1-16

### **Friday, July 17**

Psalm 31 *I trust in you, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in your hand.* (vv.14-15a)

I ran Christian radio stations for a few years. From time to time we would announce tickets for events where we needed a head count up front. We always eventually had good turnouts. But very few fans seemed able to let us know ahead of time that they planned to come. Most people have hectic schedules. Children double the uncertainties! A concert in three weeks? Let’s go... if no one gets sick, or breaks an arm, or has a conflict at the last minute with school sports, or there’s an emergency at work, or unexpected visitors come to town, or or or....

The same obstacles challenge our intentions to serve the Lord. We love Him. But *time itself* is not always easy to give up when other priorities are rattling our cage. “Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!”

Joshua 4:19—5:1, 10-15; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 26:17-25

### **Saturday, July 18**

Romans 13:1-7 *For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.* (v.1b)

A year before the Declaration of Independence was signed in the American colonies, Davy Crockett’s grandparents founded and settled the town of Rogersville in northeastern Tennessee. The town was the site of a deadly Indian attack soon after. Residents built a fort for protection of their families.

That spirit of appreciation for those who protect the community carries on today. Each year, the local high school students host a Police Appreciation Day breakfast. Local businesses like Pal’s, Sonic, Hardee’s, O’Henry’s, McDonald’s, Walmart, Little Caesar’s, and other restaurants all donate food to the event. Food is sent back for officers on duty who cannot attend in person. Principal Thomas Floyd says, “We want to honor their service, so they see and feel our heartfelt thanks for what they do.”

When we say, “thank you,” our focus is on our own satisfaction. When we express appreciation, our focus has shifted to honoring the authority and services of the ones God has sent to help us.

Joshua 6:1-14; Psalms 30, 32; Matthew 26:26-35

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