

Good News Daily

Sunday, June 14

Numbers 6:22-27 *The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.* (vv.24-26 NRSV)

The Aaronic trinity of blessings brings back sweet memories of saying this on my knees at my child's bedside as the concluding prayer following story time and prayers for others. We are reminded to ask God for His blessing for our loved ones and ourselves. This blessing includes requests for God's protection, attention, and the gift of well-being.

Psalms 93, 96; Acts 13:1-12; Luke 12:41-48

Monday, June 15

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

I moved recently and my new home church is very active in the Cursillo movement. When I discovered that my priest was to be a Spiritual Advisor for the up-coming Women's Weekend, my interest was piqued. I then learned that a new friend was a candidate. I realized that I wanted to go too. I was soon sponsored by a generous member of the parish and committed to attend.

Life's complications can be burdensome, and I was feeling the stress of the sale of one home and the move to another. I didn't realize just how worn down I was and how great was my need for spiritual renewal. At Cursillo, I found myself in expert hands, and I returned to my new parish ready to once again serve and be Christ's hands and feet.

I will heed the psalmist's reminder that I am in need daily for salvation and restoration. Let me come humbly before my God and ask for

forgiveness and for the light of His face to shine down on me with life-giving grace and mercy.

Numbers 9:15-23, 10:29-36; Romans 1:1-15;
Matthew 17:14-21

Tuesday, June 16

Numbers 11:1-23 *So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me?"* (v.11)

Moses is fed up with all the kvetching of the Israelites about their displeasure at having a diet entirely based on manna while in the wilderness. I laugh at this example of our human nature, but then I ask myself, what gifts from God am I taking for granted at this very moment? I had better pause and count my blessings.

Psalms 78:1-39; Romans 1:16-25; Matthew 17:22-27

Wednesday, June 17

Matthew 18:1-9 *"Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."* (v.4)

Our community has a Backpack Give-Away. This event supplies school children in need with supplies for going back to school after summer break. My husband and I arrived almost two hours before the event was to start to help prepare our church's station. There were a number of people already waiting in line. My heart was touched by how many of the children expressed thanks as we distributed supplies.

However, I was most moved by the behavior of my rector. As ending time neared and the other tables were being readied for removal, I felt hot, tired, and impatient to wrap up. But my rector said, "I think I see a few more children coming." He was watching for latecomers and was happy to wait until all were served no matter how long it took if our supplies lasted. I was humbled by the generosity of the example set for

me, and I thank the Lord for this priest and others like him who show us the way to the kingdom of heaven.

Numbers 11:24-35; Psalm 119:97-120; Romans 1:28—2:11

Thursday, June 18

Matthew 18:10-20 *"If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?"* (v.12)

In the song "Reckless Love of God" we witness the songwriters, Culver, Asbury, and Jackson's knowledge of this verse as we hear Cory Asbury sing the description of God's love for him in the chorus: "Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God...it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine...I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it, still, You give Yourself away..."

I think of my earthly father, patiently searching through the green shag carpeting in my bedroom for the lost hot pink Barbie shoe. He was showing his love for me in this and countless other acts, big and small, as I grew up. If we mere mortals can love our children with this much love, how much more must our Heavenly Father love us?

Numbers 12:1-16; Psalm 83; Romans 2:12-24

Friday, June 19

Matthew 18:21-35 *Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"* (v.21)

Jesus answered, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times" (v.22). Notice the specifics of Peter's question. He asks not how many times to forgive a random person who has wronged him, but a fellow member of the church, a person with whom he shares a relationship in the believing community. Those first-century

Christians brought up in the Jewish tradition had a prescribed way of asking for forgiveness. The sin was acknowledged by the sinner, regret was expressed to the person wronged, forgiveness was asked, and the sinner was obligated to undo as much damage done by the sin as possible. Restitution was offered when applicable, and a promise was made to never do it again. When this formula is followed, it is both much easier to obtain forgiveness and to forgive another than when we are given the carefully parsed semi-apologies such as those issued by those in the public eye for their own misdeeds.

Numbers 13:1-3, 21-30; Psalm 88; Romans
2:25—3:8

Saturday, June 20

Psalm 90 *Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.* (vv.1-2)

Having recently changed my dwelling place, it is good to be reminded of the importance and location of my spiritual dwelling place—it's with the Lord. Keeping that thought foremost makes the home maintenance issues seem less worrisome. There will always be housework and yard work to do and items to be repaired around the house, but my first priority is to my spiritual home. I love the lyrics written in the 1400's by Bianco da Siena, translated by Richard F. Littledale in the 1800's, and set to the music of *Down Ampney* by Vaughan Williams—in the *Hymnal 1982*, hymn number 516: "Come down, O Love Divine." In the last verse we sing, "for none can guess its grace, till Love create place wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling."

Numbers 13:31—14:25; Psalm 87; Romans 3:9-
20; Matthew 19:1-12

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