

All Saints Church
Good News Daily

Devotional readings for each day, parish birthdays and anniversaries

November 9-15, 2025

Sunday, November 9

Luke 14:12-24 *“Instead, when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, and the blind. Then you will have great blessings, because these people cannot pay you back. They have nothing... But all the guests said they could not come. Each one made an excuse...”* (vv.13, 14a, 18a ERV)

To me, these narratives are about motivation and excuses. I have been guilty of unholy, selfish motivation. I have also been guilty of handing God excuses. It humbles me to confess both.

Using my gifts in ministry within my local church have been at the center of my life for over forty years. I have always been involved with ministering to others for their benefit.

Most recently God has revealed that my service and ministry has sometimes been self-centered. I have often made church life and ministry more about myself than serving others. This was deeply convicting. I confessed by agreeing with God and repenting in my heart and actions.

What is your motivation for serving God and others lately? Have you given God any excuses recently? He invites us to enter His presence and feast at the table when we come with honest hearts. May it be so.

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

Birthdays: Jocelyn Amalong, Glenn Harris, Peter Joynson, Bianca LaFont, Phyllis Rutland, Mel Simon, Betty Stalbaum

Anniversaries: Robert & Allison Murrell, Sean & Jennifer Smith

Monday, November 10

Matthew 15:1-20 *But the things that come out of your mouth—your curses, your fears, your denunciations—these come from your heart, and it is the stirrings of your heart that can make you unclean. For your heart harbors evil thoughts-fantasies of murder, adultery, and whoring; fantasies of stealing, lying, and slandering. These make you unclean—not eating with a hand you’ve not ritually purified with a splash of water and a prayer.* (vv.18-20 VOICE)

My grandson is on the Autism Spectrum. He has a different way of seeing and thinking about things. Especially when it comes to rules. They are comforting to him in the fact that it creates order. So when someone breaks a rule, it disturbs the balance of order in his world. He reacts negatively to this rule breaking and resulting imbalance.

It is the same in this passage in Matthew. Traditions, laws, and rules had become more important than the reason God gave them in the first place. Jesus is trying to make those who should know the spirit of the Law see that breaking rules was not the problem. Their hard, unrepentant hearts were the problem. But they couldn’t get past the rule breaking.

God, help us to be more about beholding and becoming like You. Open our eyes to see that You are not concerned with rule breaking as much as You are about us having hearts who want to love You.

Nehemiah 9:1-25; Psalm 80; Revelation 18:1-8

Birthdays: Harris Layson, Gary Rupp

Tuesday, November 11

Nehemiah 9:26-38 *“You warned them to return to your Law, but they became proud and obstinate and disobeyed your commands. They did not follow your regulations, by which people will find life if only they obey. They stubbornly turned their backs on you and refused to listen.”* (v.29 NLT)

In my opinion, God gets blamed for a whole lot of things that aren’t His fault. I have blamed God myself. I don’t think it offends Him. God can handle my anger and

blame. But it hurts me. Deeply. It prevents me from hearing or seeing how He is working in my life.

I have a friend who was asking me why God was not intervening in her life to change things. Specifically, why God was not changing her husband who has a drinking problem. In essence she was blaming God for not answering her prayers.

In reality, it is her husband’s actions that are the blockage to unanswered prayer. Her husband continues to make unhealthy choices, even though he knows the ones which would be helpful in his own healing of alcoholism. It is often easier to blame God than take responsibility.

Confess any blame or anger to God today. He can handle it. Accept your part in what He wants to do in your life and be healed.

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

Birthdays: Sloane Scala, Finley Scala

Anniversaries: Mike & Lucy Carney, Bush & Shameen Wrighton

Wednesday, November 12

Matthew 15:29-39 *Then he took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, who then distributed the food to the crowds. When everyone was full and satisfied, they gathered up the leftovers. And from what was once seven loaves and a few fish, they filled seven baskets!* (vv.36-37 TPT)

This story never gets old for me! We see the heart of Jesus in this story. He is healing, caring about people being physically hungry, and allowing His disciples to be part of a miracle. The crowd not only got a small portion of food but were “full and satisfied.” Everyone was full and satisfied. Men, women, children, including those who had been healed of awful diseases.

This is God. Never just barely enough, but a God of abundance and multiplication. A God of love and grace and miracles. He is our God who fills us and satisfies us to overflowing. We are blessed to be a blessing. God wants us to fully participate in His work.

God desires us to receive, to give, to bring healing, to distribute His gifts, and be fully involved with all the aspects of His kingdom work. God, You are amazing. We praise You for wanting us as partners in Your awesome kingdom work. Thank you.

Nehemiah 7:73b—8:3, 5-18; Psalm 119:97-120; Revelation 18:21-24

Birthdays: Tim Conyers, Ruth Hill Yeilding, Alden Anderson, Linda Warren, Sutton Shealy, Tom Sims

Thursday, November 13

Revelation 19:1-10 *Then I heard what seemed to be the thunderous voice of a great multitude, like the sound of a massive waterfall and mighty peals of thunder, crying out: “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns! Let us rejoice and exalt him and give him glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come. And his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, shining bright and clear, has been given to her to wear, and the fine linen represents the righteous deeds of his holy believers.” Then the angel said to me, “Write these words: Wonderfully blessed are those who are invited to feast at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!” And then he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”* (vv.6-9)

This is when the word awesome is appropriate. What an awesome day this will be. WOW. If I just kept writing the word “WOW”, that would be enough for a devotional in response to this Scripture passage.

Who can possibly imagine being in the very presence of the LORD God Almighty? Being in His throne room, having been invited and being celebrated by the God of the universe who created it all. WOW. A feast and wedding celebration prepared for us—lowly physical human beings made from the very dust of the earth.

I continue to be in awe of a God so amazing that He would make me His bride. His treasure. That He would give the sacrifice of His Son just to be with me. What a celebration this will be—hallelujah indeed!

WOW.

1 Chronicles 10:1-14; Psalms 23, 27, 83; Matthew 16:1-12

Birthdays: Richard Baptist, Ella Castino, Ellen Cotten, Jane Hursh

Friday, November 14

Matthew 16:13-20 *Then he asked them, “But you—who do you say that I am?” Jesus asked.* (v.15)

Jesus loves to ask questions. Sometimes I find this bothersome! There are times when I just want Jesus to be clear and direct and answer the question I am asking him. Can you relate to my thinking?

I do understand why Jesus asks questions though. He wants me to think. He wants me to examine myself—my thoughts, motivations, and true beliefs. Questions help me to be honest with God. Because sometimes, I can speak quickly with my words and first thoughts but not always with my whole heart.

Most recently I sensed God speaking to me. In regards to a particular prayer request, He asked, “Do you trust me?” Immediately, I responded with yes. However, my first response was not what I was feeling or believing deep down. I wanted to believe. I wanted to say “Yes, God, I trust You completely.” But truthfully, I was not trusting God. I had doubts. Many doubts. I wavered in my faith.

God asks questions because we need Him to. Be honest with God today if He asks you a question.

1 Chronicles 11:1-25; Psalm 88; Revelation 19:11-16

Birthdays: Nat Hill, Patrick Mullally

Anniversaries: Francis & Megan Baptist, Dykes & Lisa Everett, Eric & Darcy Ravndal

Saturday, November 15

Matthew 16:21-28 *Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.* (vv.24-25 NLT)

These words of Jesus were meant to be shocking to those who were listening. He was telling His disciples to choose, to actually be willing, to be crucified. Crucifixion was one of the most brutal forms of torturous execution by the Romans. It was purposely designed to be a very slow, agonizing, painful way to die.

Jesus’ words are still shocking today. I generally don’t want to give up my own way. And I definitely do not want to die by crucifixion. And yet, these are the recorded words of Jesus. To his followers then and to us, his followers, today.

How willing am I to continually put to death my own desires, plans, expectations, and physical comforts to serve God? How willing are you? What is Jesus asking us to willingly give up? Nothing less than everything.

God, help us lay everything at Your feet and willingly give up what we hold so tightly, for Your glory and our good.

1 Chronicles 13:1-14; Psalms 87, 90; Revelation 20:1-6

Birthdays: Mia Basso, Michael Dymond, Paul Reich

by Pamela Newton

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