

Community of Grace

DAILY WALK WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2022

Faith in Action: A Day of New Beginnings

Written by Pastor Jim Nelson

Monday August 22, 2022

Luke 13:10-17 "Upright"

In this scripture reading, we find Jesus in the synagogue teaching on the Sabbath. As he was busy teaching, reading and answering various questions, his attention was directed to a woman who was trying to make her way over to the women's section. She probably really didn't see Jesus because she has been bent almost in half for eighteen years. Her shoulders and neck were bent down. Everything that this woman tried to do was always very painful and caused her to tire very easily. In a bent out of shape body, she had learned not to look up in any way at all for eighteen years. Jesus called her to come forward and placed his hands on her. This was strange actions for a Jewish man, especially a rabbi. But Jesus was no ordinary rabbi. Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for healing the bent woman after years of suffering. Give us hope and make us open to your healing in our own lives. Amen.

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Luke 13:10-17 "Upright"

Jesus was very aware of the life and love of God coming directly in touch with the need of the people. Jesus followed the rules only if it meant ministering and helping his brothers and sisters. Jesus would change the rules rather than prevent people from receiving his grace. Ministering, caring and loving all people were more important to Jesus than old rules, habits and customs. Prayer: Dear Lord, guide me while doing your work even if that work means breaking rules, habits and customs. Amen.

Faith in Action: Sharing & Service

Written by Trudy Hanson

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of the prince. Proverbs 25:6

-7 Many years ago I decided I was going to get Great baseball tickets for Tim's Father's Day gift. They were right behind home plate, in the special section where they come and take your food orders from your seats. The day came and we were so excited to be sitting in these great seats. When we got there we were escorted to our seats. A very friendly staff person came and welcomed us. She told us all the special items we could order to eat and that there was also a buffet that had delicious appetizers (included!). Since our seats were right behind home plate the players would stop and talk to us after their batting practice. It was like we were old friends. The whole day was just amazing. We felt important. The next year I decide I wanted to do that again and started looking and couldn't find seats exactly where we were the previous year but got "what I thought" was close. When we got to the game we found out our seats were "what felt like" a 20 minute walk up. Looking at the players on the field was like watching ants move from one spot to the next. We had to walk all the way back down to get something to eat and drink and then haul it back up to eat it. Comparing it to the previous year it was a big disappointment. Our lesson today, Jesus is telling us that being in service to God isn't about us. It isn't something to make us feel important, it isn't something to bring attention to ourselves and it isn't to get recognition. It's about those that need us, it is

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about our neighbors that need the gifts we have to give. It's about those that need to hear God's good news. Look for a place that you can do good works, to help and make a difference. By doing this, those that you help will raise you up and God will provide a special place for you. Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to search out those that need us, those that we can help and encourage so that we are following in your teachings. Amen.

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who greatly delight in his commandments. Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever. They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord. Their hearts are ready, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. Psalm 112 To me Psalm 112 is like a road map that God has laid out for us. It's about our human responsibility between following God and caring for others. It is the connection between keeping God's laws so that we may be of benefit to our neighbors.

He is telling us what is important and how to accomplish it. We all have gifts that would help someone else. But what if you don't know what gifts we have? It's easy, think about all the things you love to do. It may be sewing, cooking or reading. Those things you do often throughout your week. But then what about those phone calls to friends and relatives, the cards you send for special occasions. Those once a week house cleaning or yard work. There are so many things we love to do every day that are gifts or talents that you can share with someone else. Many years ago I really wanted to be a storyteller. I listened to so many storytellers spin their tales and tell their stories...I wanted to do that. But getting up in front of people was so not my thing. Then we had a women's group and I fought my fears and told a story to a group of wonderful women. That was the beginning of using my stories to spread God's word. If God had not given me the idea and the strength to face my fears I would not have been able to do it. Don't be afraid, go out and share your gifts and use them to show God's love and amazing Grace. Heavenly Father, Show us our gifts and how to use them. Give us courage to go out and lift our neighbors as we spread your word. Amen

Friday, August 26, 2022

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. Psalm 112:4 Many years ago a friend and I had a long discussion about "our stuff". We had both been through cleaning out our parents' house after their death. I told her that I knew every piece was a special moment in life or a special item that was given to them from parents, children and grandchildren. Every time they looked at them that person or that moment was remembered. It was

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painful deciding whether to give, throw or keep. It was all emotional. But then I ran across something that was even more important, my parent's old calendars. They kept every one of them over the years and they read like a diary of important days and events. It was then that I realized what was important in my parents' life. Every month they noted days and times for food pickups and deliveries to the shelter. Dinners and lunches that the ladies Aid provided for church functions and funerals, trips to places to volunteer. They noted every Sunday that they were serving and reminders of a church committee meeting and the list went on. Every month had something that was a gift to someone else or a commitment they made to reach out and help, volunteer or give to others. It was like God telling me...this is what was really important to your parents. The rest was just memories of their life they enjoyed. My parents will be remembered for all that they did for others and I know God looked favorably on them. All the rest is memories of a life well lived in service to others. Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for showing us the way, for telling us what is important. Help us to look for ways to help our neighbors so that our descendants will see the joy that we received in doing them and continue our work. Amen

Saturday, August 27, 2022

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous. It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice. For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever. They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the lord. Their hearts are

ready, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes. They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor. Psalm 112-5-9 Community of Grace has always been a dedicated supporter for the SE Gwinnett Coop. When we first became a member the Coop was in trailers across the parking lot. Many of our members volunteered almost every day that they were open. They worked hard and they shared God's love for them and assured them that even though they were going through a difficult time, God was with them giving them strength and hearing their prayers. We also gathered food every Sunday, most of the time needing several trips to deliver our donations. Even after they moved into their huge building many kept volunteering and Community of Grace continues to collect and donate food and other needs throughout the year. We still support them with all that we have to give. One year several of our members went to a special Christmas event at the Coop and wrapped Christmas gifts for those that needed the Coop to survive. They told us their stories of being independent and suddenly jobless and homeless. They told us the struggles to keep a roof over their children's head and the hopelessness that they had. With many tears we listened to their stories, we prayed with them and assured them God was there for them. We shared their tears and we heard how grateful they were for our love and support and our prayers. By Volunteering, giving generously and sharing Gods word we are Gods disciples, the light of the world. Prayer: Gracious God, Help us to open our hearts and be a light to all those that need us. Amen

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Sunday, August 28, 2022

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those that are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held to honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you" So we can say with confidence, The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me? Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:1-8 In these verses our God is giving some practical instructions to all of us that follow Christ and find themselves in difficult and uncertain times. We as members of Community of Grace could definitely be the ones that God is talking to as we forge ahead into uncertain times. In these verses God gives us rules to follow as we find our way.

Love each other as brothers and sisters;
Be hospitable to all, including those you don't know yet;
Remember those that are hurting and are in need of community;
Care and love your family, comfort and protect them
Be content with what you have
Be confident that God will never leave you and will always be there for you.

Watch and live like those who walk with God and live their lives for him.

And the greatest of all, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Always have faith in him. You can trust him, he will always be there for you Prayer: Heavenly Father as we begin our future of uncertainty, remind us that you walk with us and you are always there for us. Amen