

## Holy Saturday, April 10

Hebrews 4:1-16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.* (vv.15-16)

Every time we confess our faults, pray for others, or petition for our own needs, we must come to this throne of grace. Thanks be to God, Jesus is not like the human high priests who could enter the Holy of Holies just once a year to intercede for the people. Not only does Jesus know our most pressing difficulties and secret weaknesses, he is our Great High Priest, at God's side all of the time.

He is our King and Lord, and so we must approach his throne with all the reverence and respect due his Holy Name. However, because he is also our friend and brother, we can come there with confidence and bold assurance that he will receive us and hear us. Our sin was nailed to Calvary's cross with him and for this reason he is able to say, "Not guilty!"

Praise the Lord and Hallelujah!

Job 19:21-27a; Psalm 88

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## Good News Daily

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### Palm Sunday, April 5

Zechariah 9:9-12 *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* (v.9 NIV)

This prophecy was fulfilled about 500 years later when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (John 12:9-19). Although this book is written for the people who rebuilt the walls and the temple, Zechariah also foretells many other details of Jesus' life. Among other things, it predicts the return of the Jews to their land in 1948 and their miraculous and victorious defense against the enormous enemy forces that surrounded them (Zechariah 8:1-20).

The test for a prophet of God is very simple: Are his prophecies fulfilled? Zechariah definitely passes that test because he has been "right on" with every prediction to date. Therefore, we must take note and rejoice when he describes the future peaceful reign of the Messiah. We certainly don't know the hour or day, but we do know that our God is in control and that He will accomplish that which He plans. It is "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord (Zechariah 4:6). Hallelujah! He is coming!

Psalms 24, 29; 1 Timothy 6:12-16; Matthew 21:12-17

### Monday, April 6

Philippians 3:1-14 *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.* (v.10)

Thank God for his marvelous power without which we could never even imagine being like Him. When He fills us with his Holy Spirit we begin to demonstrate some wonderful characteristics which Paul calls the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control unquestionably represent the character of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the vine and we are the fruit-bearing branches. We begin to think as he thinks and act as he would act. WWJD becomes our nature.

Apples and oranges mature and grow as the sun shines upon the tree. Our fruit will likewise mature and grow in the love of Christ as we allow the Son to shine on us and in us.

God tells us to "Be perfect even as He is perfect." This is rather intimidating until we understand that He does not mean we must be flawless

or without a single fault. He is speaking of this very process of maturing, which is the Holy Spirit working in us and through us.

Jeremiah 12:1-16; Psalm 51; John 12:9-19

## **Tuesday, April 7**

Philippians 3:15-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.* (v.20)

Because he was born in Tarsus, a Roman city, Paul was legally a Roman citizen. When the Jews in Caesarea were trying to kill him, he wisely exercised his right of appeal to Caesar and requested a hearing in Rome (Acts 25:11).

When we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we are born again and have the rights of a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven. Sooner or later the enemy will accuse us of our sin, but we need not appeal to heaven. No, we have an eternal advocate, Jesus Christ, who forever intercedes for us. He says to the Father, "This one is innocent because I have already paid the price for his sins."

John the Baptist might have been speaking to us when he said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." He was the forerunner who said that Jesus is near and that he is bringing in this kingdom. We know that God had this plan from the beginning and His plans will always come about.

Hallelujah, He is coming! Hallelujah, He is near!

Jeremiah 15:10-21; Psalms 6, 12; John 12:20-26

## **Wednesday, April 8**

John 12:27-36 *"But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."* (v.32)

Jesus' statement did not confirm the Jewish view that their expected Messiah would come as a warrior and not as a suffering servant who would be lifted up on a cross to die for the sins of the world. He was also lifted up from the grave to give eternal life and lifted up in the clouds to give us our hope of glory. And as a result of these things, he draws all men to Himself just as He said!

I spent some time in the Navy and even the hardened sailors knew that Jesus had been lifted up. Today, about sixty years later, I am no longer surprised when I meet people here in America who have never heard the name of Jesus. It is no wonder then that many Third World evangelists now think of America and Europe as their mission field!

Watchmen awaken! Many in our own areas have not yet heard about God's offer of salvation and healing. When will we "lift Him up" for all to see and be drawn to Him?

Jeremiah 17:5-10, 14-17; Psalm 55; Philippians 4:1-13

## **Maundy Thursday, April 9**

1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:27-32 *A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats or drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.* (vv.28-29)

The Rev. Al Durrance writes in a booklet, the *Healing Power of Communion*: "However we explain Holy Communion, we must see two things. It was important enough for Jesus to take the last hour that he had with the disciples, and give them this one thing to do. He seemed to be clear about it. This is my body. This is my blood."

Evidently, I am to take this seriously too. Seriously enough to think about myself honestly beforehand, and try to resolve any problems in my association with God, family, friends or neighbors. I should then confess any sin in my life and correct my attitude in relationships, making restitution and amends whenever possible. Then I will be prepared for the Lord's Table.

Father Al goes on to say: "When we receive Communion, we might visualize the presence of Jesus going into every part of our body, permeating every cell, bringing new life to our cardiovascular system as He cleanses the blood vessels and takes his healing presence into every part."

Thank you, Lord, for loving us so much.

Jeremiah 20:7-11; Psalm 102; John 17:1-26

## **Good Friday, April 10**

John 13:36-38 *Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!"* (v.38)

Peter thought he was asking Jesus a simple "Why" question. He must have been shaken to hear his beloved Master answer him with this rebuke. "Peter, you not only won't lay down your life for me, you won't even admit you know me!" He must have been devastated when, within a short time, this prophecy came true. Peter cried, berated himself, and repented. We read of his ministry in Acts and know that he became a much stronger person in spite of this experience.

How many times have I disappointed my Lord? His rebuke comes to me in my prayer time or simply through my conscience. When I recognize these shortcomings I, like Peter, need to repent and move on. He will use these lapses and weaknesses to make me stronger and more prepared to minister to others.

Sometimes we are going to miss the leading of the Holy Spirit, which will cause us to fail and fall short. We have to accept God's forgiveness and move on. Praise the Lord!

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 22; 1 Peter 1:10-20