

## Saturday, May 30

Luke 11:14-23 *And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.* (v.14)

Do you believe in exorcisms? Jesus performed them and gave his disciples power to perform them as well (Luke 10:19). But it's a tricky business. Only qualified people, similar to brain surgeons and heart surgeons in their respective fields, should attempt them. For this reason the Church has made rules regarding exorcisms.

Our reactions to this matter can swing widely. On one hand, we can become feverish and see a demon under every bed. That is, we can become hyper. On the other hand, we can become chilled and deny that such creatures exist. And that pleases the Devil immensely. For when we refuse to recognize our enemy, that gives him much more power over us. The enemy that you don't see has more power than the enemy that you do see.

Take comfort that in the Lord's Prayer; immediately preceding this passage, Jesus taught us to pray for deliverance from evil or "the evil one." He's aware of our dangers and with his help we can stay close to him.

Ezekiel 43:1-12; Psalm 107:33-43, 108; Hebrews 9:1-14

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## Good News Daily

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### Sunday, May 24

Matthew 10:24-33, 40-42 *"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."* (v.42 KJV)

As a pastor I regularly go out to visit my parishioners. Because I live in the country, this means that I sometimes travel long distances to visit them. But when I arrive I'm often treated to a snack and a glass of water. And that refreshes me. For this I'm very grateful.

I'm reminded of the apostle Paul who wrote to Philemon and thanked him for often refreshing other Christians (Philemon 7). He also wrote to Onesimus and thanked him for personally refreshing himself (2 Timothy 1:16).

Do you remember being refreshed by some other Christian? It may have been a small thing to him or her, even a kind word or a small gift, but it picked you up and made you ready to begin again.

Perhaps there is someone today to whom you can do a kindness or give a small gift—even "a cup of cold water." If you do, God will bless you for it.

Ezekiel 3:16-27; Psalms 66, 67; Ephesians 2:1-10

### Monday, May 25

Luke 9:51-62 *And he said to another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first go and bury my father.* (v.59) *And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.*" (v.61)

I try to encourage people to follow Christ—to come to church, to read the Bible, to copy him, and to donate to his work. But other things often stand in their way. For youth it is often sports or homework, for adults it is often shopping or some form of entertainment. Though these things are good in themselves, nurturing our bodies and our minds, they leave out the most important part of us, our souls. Furthermore, they are designed to serve the gods of this world—fame, fortune, and fun—instead of our Lord Jesus.

Perhaps you noticed that each of the men quoted above said "me first." Basically, their own needs were paramount. But Jesus said, "Follow me." He put himself first. And when he is first, all other things will fall into place.

Do you recall the old saying: "The good can become the enemy of the best"? Don't let that ever happen to us!

Ezekiel 4:1-17; Psalm 89:1-18; Hebrews 6:1-12

## **Tuesday, May 26**

Luke 10:1-17 *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. (v.2)*

One day I asked some young people about their greatest ambition in life. For most it was “I want to make a lot of money.” And I thought of Jesus’ warning: “What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36).

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and to follow him. To follow him means to do his will—which is to love our neighbours so much that we want them to have eternal life. How can they have eternal life? By believing in him. And how will they believe in him? By hearing his Word, for “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). But “how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

The world is ripe for harvest, but evangelists are rare. Can we get out there to tell others about him? It’s the greatest news they could ever hear and the greatest work we could ever do—much more than making money!

Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27; Psalms 97, 99, 100; Hebrews 6:13-20

## **Wednesday, May 27**

Luke 10:17-24 *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (v.20)*

As a child, I thought that getting a lot of presents at Christmastime would make me happy. Then, as a teenager, I thought that having a nice girlfriend would do it. Later, when I went to college, I thought that getting high marks and winning a scholarship would make it happen. When I graduated, I thought that having a comfortable home and a secure income would be all I could want. But as I’ve grown older I’ve come to realize that being a member of God’s family and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven is the supreme joy that I, and anyone else, could ever desire.

The wonderful thing is, when we accept Jesus as our Saviour and are born again, that happens to us. Our names are written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 21:27). This is more important than making a billion dollars or earning a string of degrees or finding a cure for cancer or getting into the world’s Who’s Who.

Let’s make sure it happens to us!

Ezekiel 11:14-25; Psalms 101, 109:1-30; Hebrews 7:1-17

## **Thursday, May 28**

Luke 10:25-37 *Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (vv.36-37)*

On my walk this morning, I noticed two vehicles parked by the side of the road. Their lights were flashing. Our local rescue unit was on a simulated emergency operation. In between them was a ditched car, with a woman and child inside it. These men were practising how to get the door off, treat the passengers’ supposed wounds, counsel them, and take them to the hospital if necessary.

Having just read about the Good Samaritan in today’s reading, I thought of how we need to train in our work of helping needy people. I wondered about our taking counsellors’ courses, or helping in a food bank, or signing up to visit in a hospital, or participating in a church’s program to visit the elderly and shut-ins.

There’s much need around us. Are we preparing ourselves to be Good Samaritans? Jesus himself has been our Good Samaritan. Let’s learn all we can to copy him!

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Psalm 105:1-22; Hebrews 7:18-28

## **Friday, May 29**

Luke 10:38-42 *And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus’ feet, and heard his word. (v.39)*

When reading the Bible, there are different postures we can adopt. We can walk or stand or sit. As we look at Mary, we see her wanting to be close to Jesus. So she comes up to him and sits at his feet, humbling herself. She doesn’t talk, but listens to him. Further, she puts aside other duties, such as helping her busy sister, and concentrates on Jesus.

There are two other instances in the Bible of her putting herself at Jesus’ feet. In John 11:2 we are told that she had wiped Jesus’ feet with her hair. That meant she must have sat or knelt in front of Jesus. And, when her brother Lazarus had died, she came up to Jesus and “fell down at his feet” (John 11:32). She was a humble person and recognized Jesus as the One Who could help her.

Today may our Lord Jesus help us also to sit at his feet—spiritually if not physically!

Ezekiel 34:17-31; Psalm 102; Hebrews 8:1-13