

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

JULY/EARLY AUGUST 2014

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Volume 13

Think on these things...

Philippians 4:8-9

A Child's Cry

The cry was clear. Everyone within 200 feet could hear. The message plain. At Gate number D3 of the LaGuardia Airport in New York, a young child without the use of any words at all loudly cried out his message, "You're doing it wrong!" to his parents. Though out of my sight, I knew, as others who have had a child knew, the meaning of that child's cry. Whatever the parents were doing, wasn't right or what the child thought he needed or wanted. The parents, were 'doing it wrong' from the child's perspective.

When I was a new mother, I remember wondering how in the world I would be able to interpret the cries and sounds of my newborn. No instruction book on the language of newborns was available on discharge from the hospital. My bundle of joy, was an unknown bundle. He did not speak, but in his own ways, attempted to communicate with me. It was my job to figure out if he was hungry or hot, dirty or distressed, happy or hurt. Soon I began to understand all the cries and coos he made. A lot of what I learned was simply by trial and error.

Many years have passed since I had little ones, but I remember that each one of my three came here with a distinct language or means of communication. With time, I came to understand and communicate with each child in their language. As my children grew, they came to understand my language and use words common to our community and culture. As parent and child, we learned to dialogue back and forth communicating our thoughts, needs, dreams, and wants.



Hearing that little child cry out at the airport and recent health concerns, prompted me to think about God and how we cry out to him. The Bible has many examples of people crying out to God throughout history. In Psalm 10:17 we read, "You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more." In Genesis 21:17-21, though exiled from family and community, God heard the cries of Hagar's son, rescued him from death and provided for his future needs. In Exodus 3:7 and following God said of his people, "I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey ..." Even kings have cried out to God. In Psalm 43:4 King David says, "I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

In the New Testament, we have record of Jesus, God's only son, addressing the cries of several people as well. In Matthew 15:21-28 a Canaanite woman cried out, "Lord help me!" for healing for her daughter. Because of her faith, Matthew reports that the woman's daughter was "healed that very hour!" Mark 5:38 tells of a synagogue ruler who cried out to Jesus to heal his dying daughter. Jesus healed her. In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus heard the cries of a widow who had lost her only son. From the coffin, Jesus raised the son from death to restore him to his mother. Over and over throughout history God and Jesus hear and answer the cries of people.

Like the young child in the airport, sometimes we cry out and worry that 'God is doing it wrong.' We don't comprehend his plan and think he is not doing what we want or think is best. In Luke 18:1-8, Jesus tells the story of the unjust judge saying, "And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly." Continuing in the same vein, Matthew chapter six discusses how people worry about basic necessities beginning in verse 25. The story concludes with "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink.' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." These verses confirm that God knows what is best for us and will provide it.

Most of the time now, my children and I understand each other. Occasionally, we will miscommunicate, and one or the other of us believes someone is 'doing it wrong' in response to our wants, needs, and desires. Those who have adult children or who are adult children may be able to empathize and understand what I mean. In spite of how well we do or don't communicate with each other, as Christians, we can have confidence knowing that our heavenly Father hears our cries. We can know he understands our needs, desires, and wants. We can know that even when we may think that God is 'doing it wrong,' that he is doing it right. The proof is in Romans 8:28 when Paul says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Like a child that is too tired or overwrought, sometimes we don't even know what we want or need when we cry out. Romans 8:26 tells us that

"the Spirit (God gives his children) helps us in our weakness. We don not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." How awesome is God's provision for his children. Continuing in Romans 8:31 and following Paul asks and addresses a big question. It says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Verse 37 of Romans 8 concludes, "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I (Paul) am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." How amazing to have an eternal and heavenly Father like this! He hears our cries! He heeds our needs! He heals our sin and sickness, and he has a heavenly home waiting for us! I think on these things...

Robin Robbins House

Additional Verses to Review

Psalm 43:17

Psalm 142

Psalm 145:18-19

Proverbs 21:13

Romans 8:12-18



DID YOU KNOW?

What does Jesus say about judging?

What should you do before removing a speck from someone's eye?

What should not be given to dogs? to pigs? and what does that mean?

What does Matthew 7:12 say?

What is found through the wide gate and broad way?

How many find the road to life?

How can you recognize false prophets?

Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

Who is the wise many like?

Who is the fool compared to?

How did Jesus teach?

Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter seven.

RECIPES

PEACH PIE (A Grand Champion Pie in the Ruston Peach Festival)

INGREDIENTS

Graham Cracker Crust (large size)

8 Oz Cream Cheese

1/2 Cup Sugar

Blend cream cheese and sugar until a smooth mixture.

1 Cup Water

3 Tbs Corn Starch

1 Cup Sugar

Cook these three ingredients together until clear.

4 Tbs Peach Jello

Add Jello to cooked mixture and set aside to cool.

4-6 Peaches (depending on size)

Peel and slice peaches, add to cooled cooked mixture. Then spread cream cheese mixture evenly in pie shell. Add sliced peaches mixture to pie shell over cream cheese.

Top with Extra Creamy Cool Whip then refrigerate.

When Serving tip-spray knife sparingly with vegetable spray so pie filling will not stick to knife blade.

Enjoy! Betty and Milton

Submitted by Frances White



Please feel free to submit recipes, positive quotes, comments, etc. to
The Good News Gazette at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com

*"The righteous cry out and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.*

Psalm 34:17

