Are we concerned about being about our Father's business: to walk in the light of His word and be obedient to His will? Do we truly love with His love—continually caring and loving—in spite of refusal from people? Are we more concerned about ourselves than others?

Everything that Jesus Christ did on this earth was done with great power because he said, "I have no power of my own, it is from the Father." The same Holy Spirit we have is the one he depended on! So, I depend upon him who said, "Without me, you can do nothing." And that becomes something in his power!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen!

Ezekiel 12:12-28; Psalm 69; Revelation 17:1-18

Saturday, November 7

Luke 14:1-11 *"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (v.11)

I really enjoy dinner parties with pleasant conversation around a delightful meal. I dislike interrupting the time together by moving away from the table, so we often have long times around the table.

The Lord enjoyed food and conversation as the Bible records many visits in homes, at weddings, and always with a variety of people. His table conversation in this passage was uncomfortably direct. First, he brought up healing on Sunday and the Pharisees responded with silence. Next he talked about trying to sit at the place of honor at the table and suggested all sit in the lowest place or the host may move you. Then the Lord brought up a third bad item for discussion. He suggested to the host that in the future he might not just invite friends, family, and rich neighbors, but some who never get invited.

We have this idea of what can and can't be said to have a pleasant time. We need to pray with every invitation that the Lord Jesus reign in our lives and that our words be edited with his love! And he will bless.

Ezekiel 13:1-16; Psalms 75, 76; Revelation 18:1-14

by Barbara Ball

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Good News Daily

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Sunday, November 1

Matthew 18:21-35 *"Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me, and I forgive him and let it go? As many as up to seven times?"* (v.21 AMP)

Seven times? I relate to that. We can try seven times in our own strength, but we need God if we are going to accomplish lasting forgiveness as an act of love! In Scripture we are told to love the Lord and our neighbor as ourselves. We are ever in the process of learning how to love God and others. And all of us experience difficult times with people.

I well remember a difficult time with a person in my life. In my mind I was not at fault, so for a time I played the role of victim. I tried the "seven times." I even thought this was the cross I had to bear in life. I did want a solution, so I finally asked the Holy Spirit what to do. He showed me that I was very busy protecting myself, and regardless of how I thought I was being treated, I must forgive to be free.

I asked the Lord for forgiveness for the resentment I had in my heart. Resentment had grown into bitterness and even hatred. Forgiveness takes time. I had doubting moments, as resentment would come again to my mind. I discovered a simple "Thank You, Lord; You have forgiven me," and I was obedient. Many months later my friend apologized.

Ezekiel 20:18-26; Psalms 24, 29; 1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13

Monday, November 2

Luke 12:49-59 *"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish that it were already kindled!"* (v.49)

Well, a fire can destroy or it can cleanse. God has said, "In the world you will have tribulation, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." So, discord will come even in our homes, because of people like you and me. Under the skin we all have the same sin of wanting our own way every chance we get.

God is faithfully working for change in our lives. We had many troubled times in our home as our children grew up expressing their wills. We needed God's view to walk in His Spirit, who gives light, love, wisdom, and common sense. We did learn together the hard way. One thing we knew, we as parents needed to change—not just our children. This was a family affair. God loves us too much to let us go our own ways—a parent's role is much the same.

We needed help, which we sought, and we resisted some of the help, but we did persevere and helped each other. So, we cheered up, laughed at

ourselves, and gave God thanks for His care and the knowledge He was working everything together for His good. Our two children today have shared with us three grandsons, and we are thankful always for the strong relationships we have together. And, most of all is love. Thank You, Lord, for Your refining fire.

Ezekiel 20:27-44; Psalms 56, 57, 58; Revelation 14:1-13

Tuesday, November 3

Luke 13:1-9 *"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."* (v.3)

In this passage, Jesus declares how the kingdom of God works. It is not by doing works of sacrifice that we are in the kingdom. God has made the way to reconciliation with Him by giving His Son to come to earth to live as a human being totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to do the Father's will, which in the end was the death on the cross. In the garden, on the night before his death, Jesus asked that this cup be taken from him, but said "Not my will, but the will of my Father." It was not the painful death he found hard, but the separation of relationship with God, the Father.

Jesus took my sins and yours onto his body. God initiated that great love and way to reconciliation with Him. My part is to respond. In today's lesson the Lord makes it very clear how we respond: "I tell you...unless you repent—[that is, change your mind for the better and heartily amend your ways with abhorrence of your past sins]—you will all likewise perish and be lost [eternally]."

However we express it, we need to come to him. My husband in coming to Christ said simply, "I've heard you are in the life changing business. Here's one, have at it!"

Simple, but repentant, he gave his will to a God of love, who initiated reconciliation.

Ezekiel 24:1-14; Psalms 61, 62; Revelation 14:14—15:8

Wednesday, November 4

Luke 13:10-17 *When Jesus saw her, he called [her to him] and said to her, "Woman, you are released from your infirmity!"* (v.12)

This healing on the Sabbath is a short story filled with God's grace and love.

As Jesus was teaching on the Sabbath, he saw a woman twisted and bent. He laid hands on her; suddenly she was tall and straight, recognized the Lord Jesus Christ, and gave glory to him. What followed was concern about breaking rules rather than rejoicing in the miracle. It seems easier to follow our many man-made rules than to trust God.

I remember a funny situation as a new believer in Christ Jesus. I lacked understanding of God's grace, so I was very quick to follow the rules so people would see that I could behave in the right ways. One Sunday, during the service I noticed that around me no one had red polish on their nails as I did. I clenched my hands into tight fists to hide my nails. Howard, my husband, observed this and asked, "What are you doing?" I responded, "I'm hiding my nails. I don't think I should have polish on my nails." His response was, "Well, if you are hiding them from people you are doing a good job, but if you are hiding them from God, guess what? He sees them."

Set us free, Lord, from our infirmities!

Ezekiel 26:1-14; Psalm 72; Revelation 16:1-11

Thursday, November 5

Luke 13:18-30 *"What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?"* (v.18)

One of my favorite quotes is this: "It takes God a hundred years to make a good solid oak, only six weeks to make a squash." It is appropriate here as Jesus answers the question above. The kingdom of God is His life in us. It is like a mustard seed planted and becoming a tree strong enough for bird nests or like bread rising strong by the yeast. He is the one who causes good solid growth and expands our life to be on the heavenly plane.

"Lord, will only a few be saved?" He replied, "Strive to enter by the narrow door." In other words, put your mind on your life with God. The way to God is vigorous and requires your total attention.

A friend explained to me Revelation 3:20. She reminded me of that old familiar picture which shows Jesus standing at the door knocking and there is no doorknob on the outside. The doorknob is on the inside, and the door is my will, and I had to be willing to invite him in. I was not a puppet—I had free will. I responded in willingness, because I wanted to know this God of love and forgiveness.

And the kingdom of God entered my life and I sat down at God's salvation banquet. Since that time, I have been in the process of being made a solid Christian, and I have had many rips on the road, but I do keep turning to God and am growing up in Him.

Ezekiel 29:17-21; Psalms 70, 71; Revelation 16:12-21

Friday, November 6

Luke 13:31-35 *"I tell you, you will not see me again until...you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"* (v.35)

Jesus felt such sorrow for Jerusalem, even in the warnings from the Pharisees telling him to leave because Herod wanted to kill him. He ignored their advice and said, "Go and tell that fox (not an endearing word!), I drive out demons and perform healings today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my course."

Now, how are we when we share the love of God with others? Do we stand as Jesus did in the face of fearful warnings, or do we let fear take over?