

The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language

Mark 13:37

37 I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch."

Psalm 30:1-5

1 I give you all the credit, God - you got me out of that mess, you didn't let my foes gloat. **2** God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. **3** God, you pulled me out of the grave, gave me another chance at life when I was down-and-out. **4** All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God! Thank him to his face! **5** He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only love. The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter.

Psalm 30:8

8 I called out to you, God; I laid my case before you:

Psalm 30:10-12

10 So listen! and be kind! Help me out of this!" **11** You did it: you changed wild lament into whirling dance; You ripped off my black mourning band and decked me with wildflowers. **12** I'm about to burst with song; I can't keep quiet about you. God, my God, I can't thank you enough.

2 Chronicles 23:6

6 No one may enter The Temple of God except the priests and designated Levites - they are permitted in because they've been consecrated, but all the people must do the work assigned them.

Habakkuk 1:12-13

12 God, you're from eternity, aren't you? Holy God, we aren't going to die, are we? God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work? Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline? **13** But you can't be serious! You can't condone evil! So why don't you do something about this? Why are you silent now? This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous and you stand around and watch!

Genesis 1:31

31 God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning - Day Six.

Psalm 103:1-4

1 O my soul, bless God. From head to toe, I'll bless his holy name! **2** O my soul, bless God, don't forget a single blessing! **3** He forgives your sins - every one. He heals your diseases -

every one. **4** He redeems you from hell - saves your life! He crowns you with love and mercy - a paradise crown.

Psalm 103:11-12

11 As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him. **12** And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins.

Mark 13:33

33 So keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable.

Psalm 136:1

1 Thank God! He deserves your thanks. His love never quits.

Psalm 141:3-4

3 Post a guard at my mouth, God, set a watch at the door of my lips. **4** Don't let me so much as dream of evil or thoughtlessly fall into bad company. And these people who only do wrong - don't let them lure me with their sweet talk!

Matthew 26:41

41 Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

John 8:1-12

1 Jesus went across to Mount Olives, **2** but he was soon back in the Temple again. Swarms of people came to him. He sat down and taught them. **3** The religion scholars and Pharisees led in a woman who had been caught in an act of adultery. They stood her in plain sight of everyone **4** and said, "Teacher, this woman was caught red-handed in the act of adultery. **5** Moses, in the Law, gives orders to stone such persons. What do you say?" **6** They were trying to trap him into saying something incriminating so they could bring charges against him. **7** They kept at him, badgering him. He straightened up and said, "The sinless one among you, go first: Throw the stone." **8** Bending down again, he wrote some more in the dirt. **9** Hearing that, they walked away, one after another, beginning with the oldest. The woman was left alone. **10** Jesus stood up and spoke to her. "Woman, where are they? Does no one condemn you?" **11** "No one, Master." "Neither do I," said Jesus. "Go on your

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way. From now on, don't sin." You're Missing God in All This
12 Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light. No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in."

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6

5 You're sons of Light, daughters of Day. We live under wide open skies and know where we stand. **6** So let's not sleepwalk through life like those others. Let's keep our eyes open and be smart.

1 Corinthians 16:13

13 Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute,

Psalm 136:3-4

3 Thank the Lord of all lords. His love never quits. **4** Thank the miracle-working God, His love never quits.

Psalm 136:24

24 Rescued us from the trampling boot, His love never quits.

Luke 4:14

14 Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside.

Luke 5:17-25

17 One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and religion teachers were sitting around. They had come from nearly every village in Galilee and Judea, even as far away as Jerusalem, to be there. The healing power of God was on him. **18** Some men arrived carrying a paraplegic on a stretcher. They were looking for a way to get into the house and set him before Jesus. **19** When they couldn't find a way in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof, removed some tiles, and let him down in the middle of everyone, right in front of Jesus. **20** Impressed by their bold belief, he said, "Friend, I forgive your sins." **21** That set the religion scholars and Pharisees buzzing. "Who does he think he is? That's blasphemous talk! God and only God can forgive sins." **22** Jesus knew exactly what they were thinking and said, "Why all this gossipy whispering? **23** Which is simpler: to say 'I forgive your sins,' or to say 'Get up and start walking'?" **24** Well, just so it's clear that I'm the Son of Man and authorized to do either, or both. . . ." He now spoke directly to the paraplegic: "Get up. Take your bedroll and go

home." **25** Without a moment's hesitation, he did it - got up, took his blanket, and left for home, giving glory to God all the way.

Proverbs 8:1

1 Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling? Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice?

Proverbs 8:34-35

34 Blessed the man, blessed the woman, who listens to me, awake and ready for me each morning, alert and responsive as I start my day's work. **35** When you find me, you find life, real life, to say nothing of God's good pleasure.

Psalm 106:1

1 Hallelujah! Thank God! And why? Because he's good, because his love lasts.

Acts 9:36-42

36 Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, "Gazelle" in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. **37** During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room. **38** Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. **39** Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha's body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. **40** Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: "Tabitha, get up." **41** He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive. **42** When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master.

Colossians 4:2

2 Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude.

Psalm 119:151

151 But you're the closest of all to me, God, and all your judgments true.

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Psalm 119:153

153 Take a good look at my trouble, and help me - I haven't forgotten your revelation.

Psalm 119:156

156 Your mercies, God, run into the billions; following your guidelines, revive me.

Psalm 107:2

2 All of you set free by God, tell the world! Tell how he freed you from oppression,

Psalm 107:4

4 Some of you wandered for years in the desert, looking but not finding a good place to live,

Psalm 107:6

6 Then, in your desperate condition, you called out to God. He got you out in the nick of time;

Psalm 107:20

20 He spoke the word that healed you, that pulled you back from the brink of death.

2 Timothy 4:18

18 God's looking after me, keeping me safe in the kingdom of heaven. All praise to him, praise forever! Oh, yes!

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