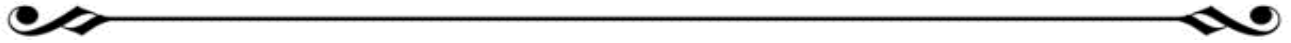


Sunday, August 31, 2025

Scripture Reading: Psalm 112

I am a slow walker, but I never walk back. —Abraham Lincoln



In the 2002 movie, “Catch Me If You Can,” Frank Abagnale, Sr. (Christopher Walken) receives the highest honor at his local rotary club. In response, he tells the story of two little mice — a story about perseverance.

Two little mice fell into a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse, wouldn’t quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter. And crawled out.

The moral of the story: *It’s not over til it’s over*. This is an aphorism attributed to Yankees catcher Yogi Berra who played in the 1940s, 50s and 60s. But the moral isn’t just about sports. It’s a reminder for all of us to keep pushing forward when life gets tough.

We all face situations that feel overwhelming — whether it’s a personal loss, a health challenge, financial strain, or broken relationships. In those moments, it’s easy to throw in the towel. But Yogi’s wisdom calls us to stay the course, to trust that the story isn’t finished yet.

In the Bible, we find many stories where it seemed “over” for God’s people, but the final outcome proved otherwise.

Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea: Trapped between the sea and Pharaoh’s army, it seemed hopeless. Yet, God parted the waters, making a way where none existed (Exodus 14:21-22).

David and Goliath: A shepherd boy with a sling and stones appeared to have no chance against a giant. Yet, with God’s strength, David triumphed (1 Samuel 17:50).

Even the resurrection! For the disciples, when Jesus was crucified, it must have seemed that it was over. But on the third day, Jesus rose, defeating sin and death forever (Matthew 28:5-6).

God’s plans often defy human logic. When we feel at our weakest or most defeated, God is still at work. As Galatians 6:9 reminds us, “Let’s not get tired of doing good, because in time we’ll have a harvest if we don’t give up” (CEB).

This is another way of saying that if we fall into a bucket of cream, like the little mouse, there’s hope — if we keep churning!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord, when I feel like giving up, remind me that my story isn’t finished. Help me to trust your timing and to persevere, even when the road ahead seems impossible. Thank you for being my strength and my guide through every challenge. May I always look to you with hope, knowing that you are at work in ways I cannot see. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Week of August 31, 2025

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Galatians 4-6

Monday: 1 Chronicles 4-6

Tuesday: 1 Chronicles 7-9

Wednesday: 1 Chronicles 10-13

Thursday: 1 Chronicles 14-16

Friday: 1 Chronicles 17-19

Saturday: Psalms 94-96

Verse to Remember

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

—Galatians 5:22-23

LABOR DAY AND THE PEOPLE WHO LABOR

Tomorrow is Labor Day. To remember with gratitude those who work hard, go through this list and make a check mark beside each occupation, if the description identifies a friend or family member. On the margins, write the names of people you know who work in occupations not listed here. Remember to pray for these people this week and to be grateful for all they do.

- ☐ Accountant
- ☐ Actor/Actress
- ☐ Cashier
- ☐ Computer Programmer
- ☐ Babysitter
- ☐ Baker/Cook
- ☐ Bank Clerk
- ☐ Barber/Hairdresser
- ☐ Bus Driver
- ☐ Business Executive
- ☐ Banker
- ☐ Carpenter
- ☐ Dentist
- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Factory Worker
- ☐ Farmer

- ☐ Firefighter
- ☐ Flight Attendant
- ☐ Homemaker
- ☐ Hotel Manager
- ☐ Journalist
- ☐ Judge
- ☐ Landscaper
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Librarian
- ☐ Mechanic
- ☐ Model
- ☐ Nurse
- ☐ Office Worker
- ☐ Photographer
- ☐ Pilot
- ☐ Plumber
- ☐ Police Officer

- ☐ Politician
- ☐ Postal Carrier
- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Psychologist
- ☐ Real Estate Agent
- ☐ Salesperson
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Security Guard
- ☐ Social Worker
- ☐ Stockbroker
- ☐ Tailor
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Trash Hauler
- ☐ Travel Agent
- ☐ Truck Driver
- ☐ Waiter/Waitress
- ☐ Writer