

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Psalm 147:1-12

- ¹ How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- ² The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- ³ He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
- ⁴ He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
- ⁵ Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- ⁶ The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
- ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- ⁹ He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- ¹⁰ He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- ¹¹ He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- ¹² But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Mark 1:29-39

After Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.