

Bouquet Caboodle



Highland Lectionary Series

June 7, 2026

Good with God, Great for the World

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans
4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Today's Big Idea

Here is the simple equation: *faith in God's goodness*
= *freedom and divine favor* = *blessing for the world*

The Raw Data of the Lectionary Texts

Two men (Abraham and Matthew) bravely follow God (Gospel, OT); *faith*

A Psalm that celebrates the *steadfast love* of the Lord filling the earth (Psalm)

Paul in Romans clarifies that *righteousness* comes through *faith* (NT)

Healings respond to acts of *faith* (Gospel)

The Simple Revolutionary Equation

Faith pleases God: Hebrews 11:6

What is *faith*? "Conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1

Conviction is proved by corresponding action

What kind of *faith*—what *conviction* does God want us to act on?

The conviction that God loves us, has a kind posture toward us, has good in store

The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord: [Psalm 33:5](#)

Our conviction about Who God is leads to different kinds of (faith) actions

"Judge" God (avoid punishment, perform for accolades, hide and avoid): see 1 John 4:16-19

"Love" God (confidence in engaging life, trying things, loving people)

This way of being in the world, far from being presumptuous, pleases God: Hebrews 11:6

Analogy in the way our children use the family cabin

And this makes one "right with God", the core meaning of "being righteous": [Romans 4:22-25](#)

Reinforcing cycle: believing God's goodness pleases God increases belief in His goodness

And this positive cycle releases us from self-focus, constant critique, and an earning mentality

Which results in a freeing outward other-looking orientation

This cycle also engenders a *no-matter-what* kind of trust in God: Romans 8:28, 31-35

Which encourages risk-taking (Abraham and Matthew!) and embracing the present

And both result in blessings, both for oneself and for the world: [Genesis 12:3](#)

The pleasure of God in Jesus freed Jesus to a ministry of blessing others, and this is our model

Faith in God's goodness embraces life as gift (grace opportunity), not test (sin management)

What about temptations? The offense against goodness will be loud and odious.

Choosing "wrong things" in the course of trusting God's goodness is still faith: Romans 14:22-23

Live like God delights in you and intends good for you: Zephaniah 3:17

The Key Excerpts for This Week's Thematic Thread

<i>Genesis 12:1-9</i>	<i>Psalms 33:1-12</i>	<i>Romans 4:13-25</i>	<i>Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</i>
<p>12 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, 6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.</p>	<p>1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright. 2 Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings. 3 Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. 4 For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made and all their host by the breath of his mouth. 7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him, 9 for he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.</p>	<p>16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. 22 Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness."</p>	<p>9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners." 18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment.</p>

Next Week's Readings: What thread do you discern? June 14, 2026 - Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8