

Praying, Waiting and Faith

Luke 18:1-9

July 15, 2018

What does it mean to lose heart?

Jesus prescribes three things in this parable to those who have lost heart -

Remember who I am.

Remember who you are.

Know for certain that I am coming.

What is Persevering Prayer?

In V 8, will he find faith on earth? Is this a prophecy of general apostasy at the end of history or an encouragement to persevering faith?

Purpose of the Parable v 1

Always pray, and do not lose heart. Persevere in hope. Enduring faith.

We are trained to want things now.

Prayer is taking God's word, God's character, God's promises, and turning it into a God honoring request. It is holding God to his Word, and waiting his fulfillment. It is trusting his faithfulness, even if it is delayed.

The Parable v 2-5

An ungodly judge

One contrast is between the ungodly judge and the righteous judge, God.

The widow was the example of being without resources or influence.

God defends the weak and helpless.

God's people care for the weak and helpless, the widow.

A needy widow

She asks for protection, vindication, justice.

He does not want to be annoyed with her; so he will grant her protection.

The Explanation v 6-7

Nag God constantly and he will eventually answer due to you being so annoying?

How much more will a loving God grant justice than a godless judge?

Remember who I am

You are dealing with a loving father, not an unjust judge.

You have a ground of expectation with God.

Remember who you are

You are not like that widow. You are a child of God. Beloved.

Remember I am coming to set things right.

He is a merciful God, you are his elect, you are crying continually to him – he will hear and respond – He will not long delay.

A Query v 8

Justice is coming, quickly; it is just around the corner. Wait for it, trust in it. It will come.

Will God find this preserving faith when he comes?