

“The End Time Dimension Of The Parables”

Lesson #5 - The Widow, the Judge and the Adversary, Part 2

Focus: “The Bible is the fully inspired Word of God. It is the infallible revelation of His will. It is the authoritative revealer of doctrine, and it is the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history. Prayerfully and humbly read and study the Bible more. For in it we will find hope for every crisis. But more importantly, we will find our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who died to redeem us from our sins.” ref. Psalm 119:142; Isaiah 8:20; 41:21-29; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; Luke 24:25-27, 32, 44-49; John 3:16-17; John 5:39; John 8:58; John 17:17; 1 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 1:1-25; 2 Peter 1:16-21

READ: Luke 18:1-8; *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 164-180; *The Great Controversy*, pg. 613-634; *Ellen G. White*

Review: The story of Job also illustrates the plight of God’s people in the time of trouble. Job lost all he had—servants, children, wife, friends, possessions, health. He was accused by Satan before the heavenly courts. He pleaded with God for an explanation of his sufferings and God delayed to answer. Yet Job exclaimed: “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.” (Job 13:15). In the end, God answered Job’s pleas and his cause was vindicated! see Zechariah 3:1-2; Revelation 12:10; Job 42

Perseverant prayer is also illustrated by the story of the women of Caanan. In spite of the fact that Jesus kept putting her off, she boldly continued coming. Finally, Jesus said: “O woman, great is thy faith.” (Matthew 15:21-28) see Mark 7:24-30; Hebrews 4:16

The time of delay in the time of trouble is described in Isaiah 54:7-8: “For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid My face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.”¹ see Psalm 30:1-5; Daniel 12:1

The Unanswered Question Is Answered

1. This parable ends with a question which is left unanswered: “Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8; see Jonah 4:9-11; Luke 13:6-9)

¹ The End Time Dimension of the Parables, #5, p. 38, by Pastor Stephen Bohr, SecretsUnsealed.org

2. This question is answered in **Revelation 14:12**: “Here is the patience [better, “perseverance”] of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” see **Luke 8:15; Luke 21:19; Romans 5:1-5; Romans 8:25; Romans 15:-1-7; 2 Corinthians 2:16; Hebrews 12:2; James 1:2-4**
3. What is the ‘faith of Jesus’? All the elements of this parable are present in the passion of Jesus in the Garden and on the Cross. The adversary who tortured Jesus was Satan (**Luke 22:53**). Jesus had nothing on earth to lean upon. His disciples forsook Him (**Matthew 26:56**). He did not even have any garments on His back (**Matthew 27:35**). He begged His Father to take away the cup (**Matthew 26:39-44**). Yet the answer did not appear to come, it was delayed. Jesus felt forsaken of His own Father (**Matthew 27:46**), yet in the end He was vindicated. see **Psalm 22; Psalm 40; Psalm 88; Psalm 109; Psalm 143; Isaiah 53; Lamentations 3**
4. **Hebrews 6:7** describes the perseverant faith of Jesus: “Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared.” see **Hebrews 6:8-10**

Why the Delay?

1. Notice the reason for the trials of **Jesus**: “Though He were a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” (**Hebrews 5:8**)
2. Job explained the benefit of his trials: “When He [God] hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (**Job 23:10**). This can be illustrated by the three young men who were thrown into the fiery furnace. When they came forth, their characters were composed of pure gold. (**Daniel 3**) ref. **Psalm 17:2; Psalm 66:10; Psalm 105:19; Jeremiah 12:3; Daniel 12:10; Hebrews 11:17; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:7; Revelation 3:18**
3. “*The Great Controversy*” explains that all “earthliness must be consumed, that the image of Christ may be perfectly reflected.”² (*GC, p. 621.1*) ref. **Proverbs 25:4; Isaiah 1:24-27; Isaiah 48:10; Ezekiel 22:17-22; 1 Peter 1:7**
4. The apostle Peter explained the reason why **God** allows trials: “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye

² *ibid.*, p. 38-39

are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. . .” (1 Peter 1:6-7; read also James 5:7-8; Hebrews 10:37-39; Luke 21:16-19)

5. “The Lord permits trials in order that we may be cleansed from earthliness, from harsh, unchristlike traits of character. He suffers the deep waters of affliction to go over our souls in order that we may know Him and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. In order that we may have deep heart longings to be cleansed from defilement, and may come forth from the trial purer, holier, happier.” (COL, p. 175.1) ref. Psalm 119:119; Proverbs 25:4; Isaiah 1:24-25; Ezekiel 22:17-22; James 1:3

The Prayer Life of Jesus

1. The prayer life of Jesus is described in Mark 1:35: “And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.” ref. Luke 5:16

Note 1: Jesus did not utter long public prayers. His prayer life was defined by a one on one conversation with His Father. So it must be with us.³ ref. John 10:30; John 17:21

Appeal Song:

Closing: “It is vital for us to learn to pray before the final crisis. “The Great Controversy” states: “The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God’s promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the

³ ibid., p. 39

promises of God. “Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement. We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.” (GC, p. 621-622); ref. Hebrews 9:27; James 5:16; Esther 3-6; Daniel 3 & 6; Revelation 13:11-18; Luke 12:35-59

“Lets us always remember that “Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence.”⁴ (COL, p. 172.4) ref. Genesis 18 & 19; 2 Kings 19 & 20:1-11; 2 Kings 22:8-20; 2 Chronicles 20:5-30; Nehemiah 1 & 2; Esther 4 thru 7; Job 42:10; Psalm 18; Psalm 119:126; Isaiah 53:1; Daniel 9:1-23 & 10; Luke 11:1-13; John 12:38; Acts 12; James 5:16; 1 John 5:13-15

⁴ ibid., 39-40

O For A Faith That Will Not Shrink
by William H. Bathurst, 1831

- 1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe!**
- 2. That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But, in the hour of grief or pain,
Will lean upon its God.**
- 3. A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.**
- 4. Lord, give me such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come,
I'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss
Of an eternal home.**