

RIDDLES

Christian Center Church
Midweek Connection
7:00 PM
Part 4

The parable of persistence

Luke 18:1-8

This parable is a story of contrasts – not comparisons

If you understand Biblical culture – it was very uncommon for a woman to be able to own property or have any say in legal matters

- Obviously she wants justice for what has happened to her and she knows exactly who had done it to her because

Luke 18:3

Avenge me of mine adversary.

As the ambassadors of the Kingdom of God – we cannot just sit back and allow our adversary to take what is rightfully ours and act like there is nothing we can do about it

- We know what the objective of the adversary is

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

You need to get up like this widow woman and realize – I don't have to take the fact that the enemy has spiritually assaulted me – molested me – stolen from me

There were three ways to pursue justice in Biblical culture

First of all – you would pay off the judge – this woman has no money

Secondly – you would threaten the judge

Thirdly – you would persist

I bring those to you because in the spiritual sense – that is exactly where we are when we have been molested and robbed by the adversary

- You can't physically find justice through money or any other carnal means
- This is a spiritual battle – not a carnal one

2Corinthians 10:4

(For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

If we would pray about our battles as much as we talk about our battles – the victory would come much sooner

- The devil is not scared of you – but he is scared of the Jesus Who lives within you

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Which is why – you must be persistent in refusing to be intimidated by your adversary

But look at what she is up against:

Luke 18:2

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

On top of that – he doesn't love people

- This woman means absolutely nothing to him

But that does not stop her from persisting in her request to be avenged from what her enemy has done to her

The reason Jesus painted the picture of this judge in such a crude way is that He wants us to realize that persistence is not always easy

- You are not always going to have people pat you on the back and encourage you along the way

Your persistence cannot depend on the affirmation and support of others – sometimes you have to go it alone!

You do have an advocate who is fighting for you

Hebrews 7:25

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

What are you fighting for?

- What is it that you believe in so deeply that you are not willing to let it go

You need to clearly define what you are fighting for – clearly define that which you are willing to go up against Goliath and fight even though you are seriously outmanned and outnumbered

You can't just say "I am fighting for my marriage" – you have to clearly define what type of marriage you are really fighting for

- That way when you go to prayer – you can pray specifically about what you are fighting for

When David was questioned by his brother about why he was there and why he was fighting

1Samuel 17:28-29

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

29 And David said, What have I now done? [Is there] not a cause?

David wasn't fighting against Goliath – He was fighting for the cause of Jehovah

The second question that I must ask is –

Why are you fighting for it?

- You can't fight for everything and not everything is worth fighting for

If you take up a fight just to be noticed – you will become nothing more than a contentious person

There are some people that if they can't find a fight – they will create a fight

The third question –

How are you going to fight for it?

Ephesians 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

That is the point of why Jesus told this parable

Luke 18:7

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

What is your plan?

Pray with Confidence

1John 5:14

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us

The meaning of the word confidence in the Greek: freedom in speaking, unreservedness in speech. To speak openly, frankly; without ambiguity

Pray until you see it happen in the Spirit

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

Pray as if it has already happened