

“Are You Faithful?”
Luke 18:1-8

Introduction: Our Lord is using a parable of the unjust judge and the poor widow woman to make known to us an important lesson on faithfulness. It is through the widow woman’s faithfulness that Jesus teaches us how we are to be faithful.

1. The Destitution of the Woman v. 3- “a widow”
2. The Desire of the Woman v. 3- “Avenge me of mine adversary.”
3. The Determination of the Woman v. 5
 - a. By Her Conversation- “this widow troubleth me”
 - b. By Her Coming- “her continual coming”

Body: In these last days, there are several who will not be faithful in the small things, much less the large. This parable concludes with a question that Jesus asked that exposes the faithfulness of the last days. Will people be faithful before the rapture of the church?

“faithfulness”- (Webster 1828)—“Fidelity; loyalty; firm adherence to allegiance and duty; as the faithfulness of a subject. Strict performance of promises, vows or covenants; constancy in affection; as the faithfulness of a husband or wife.”

- I. Are You Faithful To The Scriptures? Acts 17:11
 - A. Their Report- “These were more noble...”
 (“noble”- “to be well off, fare well, prosper”)
 - B. Their Reception- “they received the word”
 (“received”- “to receive favourably, give ear to, embrace, make one's own, approve, not to reject”)
 - C. Their Readiness- “with all readiness of mind”
 (“readiness”- “zeal, spirit, eagerness; ready, willing”)
 - D. Their Routine- “searched the scriptures daily”
 (“searched”- “to investigate, examine, enquire into, scrutinise, sift, question; specifically in a forensic sense of a judge to hold an investigation”)
- II. Are You Faithful To Supplications? Luke 18:1
 - A. The Parts of Prayer
 1. Pardon I John 1:9
 2. Presentation I Timothy 2:1- “supplications” (Our Needs)
 3. Petitions I Timothy 2:1- “prayers” (Our Requests)
 4. Private I Timothy 2:1- “intercessions”
 5. Praise I Timothy 2:1- “giving of thanks” Psalm 103
 - B. The Product of Prayer I Timothy 2:2-3

1. A Peaceful Life v. 2
 2. A Pleasurable Life v. 3, Revelation 4:11
- C. The Positions of Prayer
1. Bowing Exodus 34:8
 2. Sitting I Chronicles 17:16
 3. On Your Face Matthew 26:39
 4. Standing Mark 11:25
 5. Kneeling Ezra 9:5, Luke 22:41, Acts 20:36, 21:5
 6. Hands Lifted I Timothy 2:8
- D. The Places of Prayer
1. Private Luke 9:18, Matthew 6:6
 2. Public
 - (a) Family Deuteronomy 6:6-9
 - (b) Friends Matthew 18:20, Acts 1:14, 2:42, 12:12
 - (1) On a Mountain Matthew 14:23
 - (2) Solitary Place Mark 1:35
 - (3) Wilderness Luke 5:16
 - (4) Certain Place Luke 11:1
 - (5) Temple Acts 3:1, Matthew 21:13, Luke 2:37
 - (6) Housetop Acts 10:9
 - (7) Riverside Acts 16:13
 - (8) City of Joppa Acts 11:5
 - (9) Everywhere I Timothy 2:8
- E. The Period of Prayer
1. Continued I Samuel 1:12, Matthew 7:7-8
 2. Day and Night Nehemiah 1:6, Luke 2:37
 3. Morning Psalms 5:2-3, Mark 1:35
 4. Evening, Morning, Noon Psalms 55:17, Daniel 6:10
 5. Baptism Luke 3:21
 6. Often Luke 5:33
 7. All Night Luke 6:12
 8. Midnight Acts 16:25
 9. Always Romans 1:9
 10. Without Ceasing I Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 12:12
- F. The Promises of Prayer Jeremiah 33:3, Matthew 7:7-8, John 14:13-14, John 15:7, I John 3:22, I John 5:14-15
- G. The Power of Prayer James 5:17-18
1. For Service Acts 4:31-33
 2. For Salvation Acts 16
 - (a) Lydia vs. 13-15
 - (b) Jailer vs. 25-34
- H. The Prerequisites of Prayer
1. There Must Be Confidence Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, James 1:5-8
 2. There Must Be Consistency I Thessalonians 5:17, Luke 11:8, 18:1
 3. There Must Be Commitment Matthew 26:40, Mark 9:29

- III. Are You Faithful To The Sanctuary? Hebrews 10:25
- A. Our Attendance- “Not forsaking” (This is a willful sin. vs. 26-27) (“forsaking”- “abandon, desert; utterly forsaken; to leave behind”)
 - B. Our Assembling- “the assembling of ourselves together” (“assembling”- “a gathering together in one place”)
 - 1. “If you come Sunday morning you love your Church.”
 - 2. “If you come Sunday night you love your Pastor.”
 - 3. “If you come Wednesday night you love Jesus.” (Simpson, pg. 17)
 - C. Our Attitude- “as the manner of some is” (“manner”- “to be accustomed”)

Your absence from the church speaks volumes:

 - 1. Says to Jesus—Your House is not important
 - 2. Pastor—Your sermons are a waste of my time
 - 3. Treasurer—There’s going to be a deficit
 - 4. Visitor—This Church is not worth Joining
 - 5. Member—Why don’t you stay home next Sunday
 - 6. Lost—It’s a waste of your time
 - 7. Neighbor—It’s not necessary
 - 8. Nation—Close the churches down
 - 9. Heathen—We don’t care if you go to hell
 - 10. Missionary—Why don’t you come home
 - 11. Sunday School Teacher—Why did you bother studying
 - 12. Choir Leader—Why did you practice
 - 13. Children—Take it or leave it
 - 14. Hell—Fill it up!
 - 15. Martyrs—You died a fool
 - 16. Young People—It’s just for kids and old folk
 - 17. Satan—Your business is more important
 - 18. Dying World—I don’t care (Simpson, pg. 17)
 - D. Our Admonition- “exhorting *one another*” (“exhorting”- “comforting and encouraging; to instruct, teach”)
 - E. Our Awareness- “so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”
- IV. Are You Faithful To Soul-Winning? Matthew 4:19 (No fishing without following)
- A. We Need To Sow Psalm 126:5-6, Matthew 13:3
 - B. We Need To Glow Matthew 5:14-16
 - C. We Need To Go Matthew 10:6-7, 22:9, 28:19, Mark 1:38, 5:19, 16:15, Luke 9:60, 10:3, 14:23, 15:4, John 4:4, II Corinthians 4:3
 - 1. Go where? John 4:31-38
 - 2. Go how? Psalm 126:5-6
 - 3. Go why? Psalm 9:17
 - 4. Go when? NOW! Romans 13:11-12

Conclusion: Someone may ask, “Why do we need to be faithful?” The answer lies in the fact that there is a judgment seat. One day we will be judged for our faithfulness to the Lord’s work. How will you pass the test?

1. The Responsibility of Faithfulness I Corinthians 4:2
2. The Recognition of Faithfulness I Corinthians 4:17, Galatians 3:9
3. The Reward of Faithfulness Matthew 25:21