

1. PERSEVERING PRAYER, LUKE 18:2-8

Let us go to Luke, the eighteenth chapter, today, for our thought for the day. And our thought will be Persevering Prayer. We find these words:

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:2-8).

We see in this story here a little widow woman that came with a just cause before an unjust judge. An unjust judge that had no conscience toward God, cared not for his reputation before men, had no respect nor fear for the Creator or the creature. If this little widow woman obtained avenging of her adversary before an unjust judge, how much more will God avenge us of our adversary because God is a just and holy and righteous God.

But let us see what was the secret of this kind of prayer, this was persevering prayer. This little woman obtained her answer to prayer through persistent craving. She craved, she desired more than anything in the world to be avenged or be delivered from the oppression of her adversary. What a lesson, beloved, if a little widow woman in the natural could obtain an answer to prayer from an unjust judge because she persistently prayed. How much more will Almighty God deliver us from the world, the flesh, and the Devil if we persistently crave to be like Jesus Christ? If we persistently crave to be changed into His Likeness and into His Image?

And she persistently toiled in this matter of prayer before the unjust judge. Though the Word says there, "Though that he would not for a while" because of his bad character, his evil heart. I am sure he was waiting for some bribe possibly to be offered to him from the little woman, so he

just waited. He did not hear. He did not answer. Yet she toiled on because she was determined to have her answer to prayer. Yet she persistently begged. She was a beggar persistently before this unjust judge. He cared nothing for her problem. He cared nothing for her deliverance; only for himself, yet she obtained an answer through her persistent prayer.

Then she continually persisted in soliciting him for deliverance from her problem. No doubt she bothered him in the Courtroom. No doubt she bothered him on the street corner. No doubt she followed him to the grocery store. She persistently solicited his help and his favour. And after a while, he heard her, even though he had no fear of God, no respect for God, yet he avenged her of her enemy. And God said in verse six: "Hear what the unjust judge saith." In other words, hear the hidden secret meaning. Hear the inner voice of this Truth that God has hidden within this little parable. A parable is like a nut with a shell on the outside that prevents the wise and prudent from understanding the hidden Truth or the nutmeat on the inside of Truth. But those that are wise in heart and desire to know, they will hear what the unjust judge saith. And it is merely this, that if an unjust judge could avenge a little woman in the natural, how much more will a Holy Eternal Omnipotent, Almighty God avenge us if we persevere in prayer before Him?

And the word *avenge* implies the infliction of just or deserved punishment for wrongs and oppressions. So God will speedily, He says here, avenge us of wrongs and oppressions that have been pushed and pressed upon us in this world. But the secret is persevering prayer, not giving up, pushing on in, coming in continually and beseeching and begging God. So He will hear and He will deliver. Even though the Word says that He will avenge His elect though He bear long. In other words, it might take God a little while, a long time to answer, but be assured and rest assured, the answer will be there, if we will persevere, if we will be like this little woman here, this little widow woman. And if we will persistently crave deliverance, if we will persistently toil, if we

will persistently beg, and persistently solicit. Oftentimes we are weary and we grow weak and we faint and we pray for a season. Then if God does not seem to hear and avenge us of our pressing circumstances, our pressing situations, then we give up or even our own oppressing dispositions and attitudes that sometimes it seems almost impossible to receive deliverance from. Yet the Word says here, the command was, in the beginning of this chapter, “that men ought always to pray and not to faint.” Then following, He gives this parable on persistent praying.

So, beloved, we will not faint if we keep praying persistently before the LORD and seeking Him for the deliverance from our conditions, from our situations. God is a Just Judge. He is a Just God and if we will pray with faith and with fervency and with perseverance, God, in due season, will answer. And He said, “When the Son of Man comes again, will He find faith on the earth?” In other words, will He find this class of faith on the earth? This lets us know here, beloved, that if we will do persistent praying, that it will produce the fruit of faith.

And a lot of times, the Just Judge is waiting for the fruit of faith to appear in our vineyard or in our spiritual orchard before He reaches out with His avenging power and avenges us from our adversaries. He is waiting, beloved, for us to produce that particular kind of faith, perseverance and persevering faith that will deliver us from our adversary. How precious is the Word of Truth, how great is the Word of God that will encourage and give us hope and faith and courage. May God increase us in persevering prayer.

Heavenly Father, we thank You today for Jesus Christ Who loved us and gave Himself for us. We thank You for these words of Truth and Light. Heavenly Father, let these thoughts illuminate our souls that we might walk in the light of Thy Truth because we pray in the precious Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. Ɔ