

Sermon Text Discussion 1/7/18

Luke 18: 1-8 "Pray Always and Do Not Lose Heart" by Dieudonne Tamfu

Overview

God is greatly glorified when His creatures look to Him as all-sufficient. We are created to be God-dependent. When we live that way, it draws attention to Him. Prayer glorifies the Lord in this way by communicating that we cannot but God can, that we are needy but He is sufficient.

Luke 18: 1-8

- 1) Context of the Parable The theme of Luke 17:22 - 18:8 is the Second Coming of Christ. As Jesus suffered, His church will suffer. The world will be marked by injustice until Jesus returns so we are to be a people of prayer.
- 2) Point of the Parable Pray always and do not be discouraged. Jesus wants us to be encouraged and prayer is one means by which that can occur.
- 3) Parable Applied If an unrighteous judge gives justice to a persistent widow how much more will a righteous God give justice?
- 4) A Parable of Comparison and Contrast The widow was a stranger to the judge, and had no immediate access to him, no one to bring her case, and no promises to claim. God's people are just the opposite. Our Father knows us, we have immediate access, Jesus and the Spirit are our Advocates, and we can rely in many promises from the Lord. Contrasting the judge and God, the Lord is concerned about our needs, commands us to cast them on Him, and takes delight in our requests.
- 5) A Caution The next parable in Luke 18:9-14 addresses those "who trusted in themselves that they are righteous". A caution is to remain persistent in prayer, trusting not in our prayers, but in the God of mercy. My persistent and faithful prayer does not require that God act according to my desires.

Understanding & Application

- 1) What are your greatest challenges in persisting in prayer?
- 2) Jesus claims, that unlike the unrighteous judge, our righteous Heavenly Father will bring about justice. What evidence or reasons do you have to believe this? What causes you to doubt it?
- 3) Which of the contrasts between the widow and God's people has significance for you?
- 4) When the judge is contrasted with God what truths about the Lord do you need to recall and embrace?
- 5) What is it like for you to cast your cares upon the Lord in prayer? Do you have hindrances in believing that He delights in being given your burdens?
- 6) Dieudonne cautioned us remain persistent in prayer not trusting in our prayers, but in the mercy of God. What does he mean by this? What is something in your life now that you need to persist in prayer and trust in the mercy of the Lord?
- 7) From what you now understand about this parable, what step do you want to take in your relationship with God?

Acts: The Multiplying Church, to the Ends of the Earth Prepared by: Eric Bobbitt