

## POWERFUL PICTURES OF PRAYER

**Luke 18:1-43**

### **THE POWER OF PERSERVERENT PERSISTENT PRAYER**

Also, [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not to turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up). <sup>2</sup>He said, in a certain city there was a judge who neither revered *and* feared God nor respected *or* considered man. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, Protect *and* defend *and* give me justice against my adversary. <sup>4</sup>And for a time he would not; but later he said to himself, Though I have neither reverence *or* fear for God nor respect *or* consideration for man, <sup>5</sup>Yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will defend *and* protect *and* avenge her, lest she give me intolerable annoyance *and* wear me out by her continual coming *or* at the last she come and rail on me *or* assault me *or* strangle me. <sup>6</sup>Then the Lord said, Listen to what the unjust judge says! <sup>7</sup>And will not [our just] God defend *and* protect *and* avenge His elect (His chosen ones), who cry to Him day and night? Will He defer them *and* delay help on their behalf? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, He will defend *and* protect *and* avenge them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [persistence in] faith on the earth? **Luke 18:1-8 AMPC**

- Note that pressing in and pressing on in prayer is very important.
- If the enemy can cause you to give up, wear you out and lose heart so that you fail to pray or quit praying...he wins!
- The Word is so honest – you need to ‘find’ your heart and strength by persistent prayer, not ‘lose’ your heart in ‘delayed detonator’ praying.
- The enemy wants to have the effect on you that the widow was having on the judge. Our enemy does not honor God or care about us. (see **v4-5**)
- Listen to what God says...our just God will defend, protect, and avenge those who cry out to Him day and night, and He will do it speedily.
- He will not defer or delay your help.
- But when He comes (visitation or the second coming) will He find people persistent in faith on the earth?

He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves *and* were confident that they were righteous [that they were upright and in right standing with God] and scorned *and* made nothing of all the rest of men: **Luke 18:9 AMPC**

- A clear description of ‘bad religion.’

Two men went up into the temple [enclosure] to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **Luke 18:10 NASB**

<sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ **Luke 18:11-12 NASB**

- Filled with the emptiness all He did not do...full of the big ‘I’...no room for the great ‘I am’.

<sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” <sup>15</sup>And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they *began* rebuking them. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus called for them, saying, “Permit the children to come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup>Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it *at all*.” <sup>18</sup>A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” **Luke 18:13-18 NASB**

- His prayer was powerful and effective and brought him to an impartation of God’s forgiveness and righteousness.
- Motive of heart is vital to our prayer life...we are neither the judge nor the standard by which others are judged.
- The people were bringing their babies to Jesus just to get a touch from Him...the blessing of the Lord.
- The disciples were sending them away, but Jesus stopped them.
- We need an ‘open heart,’ a heart that longs for and looks for a touch from the Lord.
- Child-like not childish.

Truly I say to you, whoever does not accept *and* receive *and* welcome the kingdom of God like a little child [does] shall not in any way enter it [at all]. **Luke 18:17 AMPC**

- A child accepts, receives, and welcomes Jesus and the kingdom of God...”  
Let them come unto Me!”

<sup>18</sup> And a certain ruler asked Him, Good Teacher [You who are essentially and perfectly morally good], what shall I do to inherit eternal life [to partake of eternal salvation in the Messiah's kingdom]? <sup>19</sup> Jesus said to him, Why do you call Me [essentially and perfectly morally] good? No one is [essentially and perfectly morally] good—except God only.

<sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, do not kill, do not steal, do not witness falsely, honor your father and your mother. <sup>21</sup> And he replied, All these I have kept from my youth. <sup>22</sup> And when Jesus heard it, He said to him, One thing you still lack. Sell everything that you have and divide [the money] among the poor, and you will have [rich] treasure in heaven; and come back [and] follow Me [become My disciple, join My party, and accompany Me]. <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became distressed *and* very sorrowful, for he was rich—exceedingly so. <sup>24</sup> Jesus, observing him, said, How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to enter through a needle's eye than [for] a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. <sup>26</sup> And those who heard it said, Then who can be saved?

<sup>27</sup> But He said, What is impossible with men is possible with God. <sup>28</sup> And Peter said, See, we have left our own [things—home, family, and business] and have followed You. <sup>29</sup> And He said to them, I say to you truly, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> Who will not receive in return many times more in this world and, in the coming age, eternal life. <sup>31</sup> Then taking the Twelve [apostles] aside, He said to them, Listen! We are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written about the Son of Man through *and* by the prophets will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> For He will be handed over to the Gentiles and will be made sport of *and* scoffed *and* jeered at and insulted and spit upon. <sup>33</sup> They will flog Him and kill Him; and on the third day He will rise again. <sup>34</sup> But they understood nothing of these things; His words were a mystery *and* hidden from them, and they did not comprehend what He was telling them. **Luke 18:18-34**

### **AMPC**

- He has taught His disciples about persistent prayer and humility and motive in prayer. He talked to them about praying with a child-like faith...all this and then He takes them on a deeper path.
- He explains that they are about to see a large number of prophetic words fulfilled in front of them.
- He describes His arrest, and the beatings He will take, the death on the cross and His resurrection.

- But they understood none of these truths, they did not understand or comprehend any of these things...it was all still a mystery to them.

### The Bartimaeus Story

<sup>46</sup>Then they came to Jericho. And as He was leaving Jericho with His disciples and a large crowd, a blind beggar *named* Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>48</sup>Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>49</sup>And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him *here*.” So they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.” <sup>50</sup>Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>And answering him, Jesus said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” And the blind man said to Him, “Rabboni, *I want* to regain my sight!” <sup>52</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and *began* following Him on the road. **Mark 10:46-52 NASB**

- Bartimaeus was blind and when he heard Jesus was coming, he yelled and cried out to Him.
  - He continued to cry out, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”
  - Jesus says, “Call him here to Me...” Bartimaeus throws his cloak aside and comes to Jesus...
  - Jesus says...” What do you want Me to do for you?”
  - Bartimaeus says, “I want to regain my sight.” Jesus says, “Go, your faith has made you well.” **NOTHING is impossible to God!**

Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the second time, while he was still confined in the court of the guard, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Thus says the Lord who made *the earth*, the Lord who formed it to establish it, the Lord is His name, <sup>3</sup>‘Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’” **Jeremiah 33:1-3 NASB**

- The Word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah, again, while he is still ‘locked up’...
  - He can get His Word to you, regardless of your circumstance or situation.
  - Jeremiah is being held in the court of the guard. He was ‘shut up’ in the court of the guard.
  - He was ‘shut up,’ but the Lord was not! **(v1)**
  - Jeremiah describes God as the Creator of the earth...God Almighty. **(v2)**
  - Thus says the Lord...a principle of prayer. **(v3)**

- You call to Me...you pray to Me.
- I will answer you.
- I will show you great and mighty things.
  - Things fenced in and hidden which you do not know...
  - Wow! That's a lot!
- He will show us a lot...He will reveal things to us for our growth and pleasure and for His purpose and our destiny.
- Sometimes all this happens when the prayer is answered...that takes care of it.
  - Sometimes there is great power and purpose in the process of the answer coming to be fulfilled.
  - God tells Jeremiah to tell His people to call on Him and God will show up and be God, even though Jeremiah is being held against his will.

<sup>6</sup>Behold, [in the future restored Jerusalem] I will lay upon it health and healing, and I will cure them and will reveal to them the abundance of peace (prosperity, security, stability) and truth. <sup>7</sup>And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to be reversed and will rebuild them as they were at first. <sup>8</sup>And I will cleanse them from all the guilt *and* iniquity by which they have sinned against Me, and I will forgive all their guilt *and* iniquities by which they have sinned and rebelled against Me. <sup>9</sup>And [Jerusalem] shall be to Me a name of joy, a praise and a glory before all the nations of the earth that hear of all the good I do for it, and they shall fear and tremble because of all the good and all the peace, prosperity, security, *and* stability I provide for it. <sup>10</sup>Thus says the Lord: Yet again there shall be heard in this place of which you say, It is a desolate waste, without man and without beast—even in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem that are desolate, without man and without inhabitant and without beast—

<sup>11</sup>[There shall be heard again] the voice of joy and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing as they bring sacrifices of thanksgiving into the house of the Lord, Give praise *and* thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good; for His mercy *and* kindness *and* steadfast love endure forever! For I will cause the captivity of the land to be reversed *and* return to be as it was at first, says the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Thus says the Lord of hosts: In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall again be dwellings *and* pastures of shepherds resting their flocks. **Jeremiah 33:6-12 AMPC**

- God says... “Here’s what’s about to happen...”

- I am going to release healing and health to My people and reveal to them an abundance of peace, prosperity, security, and truth.
  - That is a move of God! **(v6)**
- He will release the captives, reverse their captivity to freedom and rebuild them and restore them. **(v7)**
- He will pour out forgiveness and amnesty for all who were trapped by sin and rebellion. **(v8)**
- His kingdom (and His Church – His people) will be a joy to God and to others who see the touch of God on the people of God. **(v9-10)**
- Joy, gladness, celebration, worship, and restoration to fullness will abound! **(v11-12)**
  - Call unto Him, He will answer and He will come and be God among us as only He can.