

*Morning Sermon August 10, 2014*  
*“Thy Kingdom Come, and You Too Jesus – Part II”*  
*Luke 18:1-8*

*I do not think it is immediately obvious, but Jesus’ teaching at the beginning of chapter 18 of Luke, is a continuation and application of what He taught in chapter 17:20-37, which we considered last week.*

*Last week we considered two things:*

- 1. The advancement of God’s Kingdom, that is happening even now as hearts are converted to Christ, and being converted to Christ, they are immediately opposed to Satan’s kingdom, because –*

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, (Colossians 1:13 NKJ)

- 2. Christ’s second coming – which will come suddenly, at a time no one can know or accurately predict –*

<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1Thessalonians 5:2-3 NKJ)

*Here in chapter 18, King Jesus is giving His church militant their marching orders for their time remaining on an earth still ruled by Satan, what should be our MAIN ACTIVITY?*

*I. Jesus calls us to persistent prayer –*

<sup>NKJ</sup> Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, (Luke 18:1 NKJ)

- 1. The parable is meant to teach praying always –*

*A. This is what Paul preached –*

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, (1Thessalonians 5:17 NKJ)

*B. This was what the widow was sort of doing, even with an unjust judge –*

"There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. <sup>3</sup> "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him,

saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'" (Luke 18:2-5 NKJ)

- *She was not ceasing in her pleading, badgering of this judge*
- *She finally got what she desired, not because the judge was just, but merely because she was persistent.*

- 2. This persistence in prayer is what God desires from us, though HE is NOTHING like the unjust judge –*

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. <sup>7</sup> "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? <sup>8</sup> "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:6-8 NKJ)

*What is to be our constant activity? Persistent PRAYER!*

*II. Yet, not just prayer but Kingdom prayers –*

- 1. For vengeance –*

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. <sup>7</sup> "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? <sup>8</sup> "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.

- 2. For the advancement of God’s Kingdom -*

<sup>2</sup> So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Luke 11:2 NKJ)

"What do we pray for in the second petition? A. In the second petition (which is, Thy kingdom come) we pray, That Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened." (WSC Question102)

- 3. Such prayers are prayed even NOW by souls in Heaven –*

<sup>9</sup> When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until

both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.* (Revelation 6:9-11 NKJ)

### *III. Why are such prayers NEEDED? Why do they need to be persistent?*

1. *Because we are in a spiritual battle –*

<sup>2</sup> In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

<sup>3</sup> I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled. (Daniel 10:2-3 NKJ)

<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. (Daniel 10:12-13 NKJ)

2. *Persistent prayer is NEEDED because of Satan's Wiles –*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:10-11 NKJ)

A. *In some places Satan uses the "wile" or strategy of persecution*

B. *Yet, in others he uses the "wile" of prosperity –*

*Both things are mentioned by Christ –*

<sup>18</sup> "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

<sup>19</sup> "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. <sup>20</sup> "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. (Matthew 13:18-21 NKJ)

<sup>22</sup> "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. (Mat 13:22 NKJ)

3. *Persistent prayer is NEEDED because our hearts and priorities NEED to stay right –*

<sup>33</sup> "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)

*Yet our hearts and minds can be easily led astray –*

<sup>19</sup> "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. <sup>22</sup> "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. <sup>23</sup> "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness! <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:19-24 NKJ)

*Demas was a companion of Paul –*

<sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. (Colossians 4:14 NKJ)

*He was a fellow-laborer with Paul –*

<sup>24</sup> as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. (Philemon 1:24 NKJ)

*Yet, at the end, when Paul was about die for his faith in Christ, it seems Demas 'lost heart' for the things of God –*

*Remember what Jesus said –*

"He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,..." Luke 18:1

<sup>10</sup> for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica-- (2Timothy 4:10 NKJ)

4. *Persistence in prayer is NEEDED because truth faith seems to be rare –*

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8 NKJ)

*This question from Jesus should move and motivate us – 2 Peter 1:2-11.*

*Arnold A. Brevick*