

## Do Not Lose Heart; Luke 18:1-8

### I. Lose Heart

- A. Faint - do not give in
- B. We have a tendency to give in when things seem too tough for us to handle
- C. 1 Samuel 3:12–18; 12 On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. 14 Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." 15 Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. 16 But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." 17 And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." 18 So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."
- D. It seems to me that Eli lost heart
  - 1. He was facing something that seemed insurmountable
  - 2. He saw no way out of the decision that God had made
  - 3. In reality, there is always a way
  - 4. Remember Abraham dealing with God over Sodom and Gomorrah
  - 5. If there were 10 righteous (right with God) then the entire city would be spared
  - 6. As it was, God spared the 4 righteous (3 after Lot's wife turned and looked back)

### II. Always Pray

- A. To petition God
- B. This parable is connected to the preceding teachings on the coming Kingdom
  - 1. Luke 17:20-37
  - 2. In my view and understanding this concerns the destruction of Jerusalem
    - a) When the temple was destroyed, so were all the records and genealogies of the Israelites
    - b) They could no longer worship within the confines of the Law of Moses
    - c) They could no longer verify the lineage of the High priest or the levitical priesthood
    - d) They could no longer determine what land belonged to whom (remember, it was given as an inheritance and if lost, returned to the original tribe at the year of Jubilee)
  - 3. The age of the church began on the day of Pentecost, but the complete eradication of the old law of Moses was the destruction of Jerusalem.
  - 4. Flavius Josephus' account of the siege of Jerusalem
  - 5. I can imagine during the siege of Jerusalem there were a lot of people who lost heart, fainted, gave up hope
- C. Jesus, knowing how bad this is going to be after telling them it was going to happen gives them this parable; don't lose heart, don't faint, don't give in!
- D. Jesus' battle Plan? Always pray!
- E. "ought always to pray"
  - 1. Oxford Dictionary - used to indicate a desirable or expected state
  - 2. It is necessary, under obligation, it must be done, one has to do it
  - 3. We are under an obligation to always pray to the Almighty God

4. Romans 1:8; First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.
  5. 1 Corinthians 1:4; I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
  6. 2 Corinthians 1:8–11; 8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 10 He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 11 You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.
- F. Prayer is not a substitute for action
1. Some people think that we pray so we don't have to act
    - a) "I don't want to give someone in need money, so I'll pray"
    - b) "I don't want to spend my time helping them, so I'll pray"
    - c) With some, that might be the case (may God have mercy on them)
    - d) But I find that with most of us it is a heartfelt petition to God on behalf of someone in need
    - e) When someone is willing to go to the Father, The Almighty, and petition Him on my behalf, that means a lot to me
  2. James 2:15–16; 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?
  3. 1 Timothy 4:11–15; 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.
- G. Prayer is a lifestyle
1. It is the armor of God
  2. Ephesians 6:18; praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,
  3. 1 Thessalonians 5:14–18; 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
  4. Colossians 4:2–6; 2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. 5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
- H. We are communicating with the Creator
1. If you had the President's ear anytime you wanted it, would you talk to him?
  2. I know I have quite a few questions as well as ideas that I would like to discuss with him

3. I would not miss that opportunity to make my ideas, my encouragement, and my criticisms known to him
  4. We have God's ear anytime we want it
  5. Read the Psalms; we find a lot of David's petitions, encouragements, and criticisms in the form of prayer
  6. We could learn a lot from David about how to talk to God
  7. Psalm 3
- I. God Answers!
1. Don't faint, give up, give in!
  2. Constantly Petition God
  3. He will answer you