

WILL JESUS FIND FAITH WHEN HE COMES?

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Text: Luke 18:1-8 How to please the God of creation.

Intro: Lord's statement: **V1** beginning. **V2-7** Middle. **V8** Ending conclusion.

A: The challenge: Persistent praying (v.1)

B: The example: Courageous confrontation (v.2-7)

C: The warning: Deficient disciples (v.8).

Personal Observation: Minimum for maximum as in Mark 6:1-5. Were not unbelievers, but they limited their believing. Healing meetings: minor healing, major untouched. Satisfied with minimum.

Shambach: RSA 30 known blind people healed. USA?

I. THE CHALLENGE: "What kind of faith is the Lord looking for?"

WHAT IS FAITH? Heb. 11:4. YOUR Confidence, trust, reliance.

Heb. 11:3 BY F. We believe worlds framed. Can we prove creation?

How/ Who pleases God? Heb. 11:6:

A: How did Abel please God? Worshipped- waited

B: Enock walked 365 years- waited.

C: Noah worked 120 years – waited

D: Abraham wandered lifetime-waited

E: Sarah waited 25 years.

F: Joseph bones witnessed 400 years – waited

G: Moses wandered 80 years –waited

What to do? Lay aside: every weight; sin that besets us; looking unto Jesus.

A: Secular vs. Spiritual world view. Social engineering: tobacco warnings; fat/cholesterol; exercise/heart conditioning. Political correctness/ Christian bashing. Frequent archaeology refutes biblical truth.

B: Mt. 11:12 *K. suffers violence, violent take by force."*

1. Praying pastors: 1 hr. weekly studying/praying
2. Moody: 95% Christians never win soul
3. Pastoral burnout. Number leaving ministry.
4. Thousands Rhema grads still in Tulsa area.
5. Discouraged disciples; broken marriages; chemically bound believers

C: Violent: confrontational warfare...fight to finish.

1. Christ commissioned: preach/ teach/ heal/ deliver/ KOG at hand/ no end.

D: Warfare: Christian passivism: Methodist object to *Onward Christian Soldiers*.

Satan gives no ground.

- a) **Luke 17:17-23** *first bind the strongman.*
- b) **John 10:10** Thief comes to steal, destroy and kill
- c) **1 Tim. 6:12** *fight* the good fight of faith. Victory to contenders.,
- d) **2 Cor 10:3-6** weapons our warfare are mighty
- e) **Rev. 11:12** *overcame* by blood, word and commitment
Rev 2/ 3 rewards go to the overcomers
- f) **Rom 8:35-37** More than conquerors. Define the "more"

E: What is faith?

- a) Emotion? Feelings?
- b) Mental? Idea? Learning? Knowledge?
- c) Method of "getting" or way of living?

II- THE EXAMPLE: Widow and unjust judge.

A: Determined, unyielding, faith. "Refused judge's decision"

She was: unloved, unwanted, insecure, poor widow

- 1) Passive pew-sitters; uncommitted compromisers; fearful fighters; undisciplined disciples, non-profit prophets
- 2) She in for duration. Fight till the finish. Continual coming.
"Resist the devil and he will flee."

ILL: John Wimber and year without any healings.

- 3 She: ran race, finished fight, won the crown.

B: PERSISTENT, unmoved faith. Able withstand judges verbal setbacks,

Argumentative rebuffs, personal rejections. Satanic ACCUSATIONS

- 1) **Overcomers?** Ability hold on and not quit or give up.

Heb. 11 ex. Men with unmoved faith.

Rom. 4:17-22 Sarah unmoved by womb's deadness. She conceived.

- a) Easy believism prays once and quits.

Faith refuses to surrender. Loved not lives to death.

- 2) **2 Kings 4:8** Shunamite woman's "It is well!"

ILL: Like trained athlete. Repeats until muscles trained.

Musical paradims: Do repeatedly until muscles trained.

C: FEARLESS , unintimated faith. Now swayed by awesome presence.

- a) Abr. Went out not knowing. Left plush city for empty desert.

ILL: Peter walking on water when eyes on Lord. Circumstances scared him

- a) **Jesus before Pilate.** Defenseless depending on Father. Jn 19:10-11

Forgave sins from cross. He in complete control.

b) Woman issue blood. Mk. 5:25-35 Her social status.

D: UNCONDITIONAL uncompromising faith. Confronted problem.

Faced judge and reality. Did not attempt to avoid problem.

a) Did not deny his presence, her problem, or magnitude of her circumstances. Only one way, the right way.

ILL. 2 Chron. 20:1-22 Jehosaphat sought salvation. Used every form praise.

Liberalize, dispensationalize, existentionalize, modernize?

b) Mk. 7:24-27 Syro. Woman facing rel. hatred and Jesus.

E: STUBBORN, unrelenting faith. "She wears me out."

a) John Garlock sanctified stubbornness. 1 King 19:19

Abr. Grew strong in faith. How? By walking out his belief. His vision

Gave birth to mt. Moving faith.

b) Bartimaeus: Mk. 10:46-52 threw away walking stick.

c) Moses before Pharaoh 10 times. Each time rejected. Each time Pharaoh could kill him.

F: VISIONARY unhindered faith. She saw her victory otherwise why fight city hall.

a) Jesus could have yielded to Jewry and lived beyond the cross.

b) Paul could have yielded to Rome and lived beyond their chains.

c) Martyr's could have yielded to society and lived, but looked beyond to glory.

d) Abraham saw the same city we see and will receive together.

ILL: 2 K. 4:8 Shumanite woman: It is well.

Conclusion: Is YOUR faith pleasing Jesus? Will He find YOUR faith acceptable when He comes? Hanging in there, not compromising, changing to walk with world, remaining separated and holy. Do you believe enough to act upon your belief? More than a conqueror?

Jesus posed the question: Will the son of man find faith when he comes?