

The Widow, the Judge and the Adversary

Lesson * 5 (Luke 18:1-8, COL 164-180; GC 613-634)

Central Lesson and Time Frame

1. Which two central lessons did Christ teach in this parable? That “men ought _____ to pray and not to _____.” (Lk. 18:1)
2. Though these two lessons apply to God’s people in all ages, they have special reference to the period just before Christ’s _____ coming. (COL 164)
3. In the immediately preceding context of this parable, Christ had been comparing His second coming with the days of _____ and the days of _____. (Lk. 17:26-37)
4. At the conclusion of the parable, the question is asked: “Nevertheless, when the Son of man _____, shall he find _____ on the earth?” (Lk. 18:8)

Symbols of the Parable

1. The **judge** in the parable represents _____ (Lk. 18:7) “Christ here draws a sharp _____ between the unjust judge and _____.” (COL 165)

Note: The judge symbolizes God not by way of comparison but by way of contrast. We shall find that both God and the judge delay the meeting out of justice but for different reasons.

2. In the Bible, a **woman** is employed as a symbol of the _____ (Ephesians 5:25-27).
3. The **widow** represents God’s _____ who cry out to Him day and night. (Lk. 18:7)

Note: Scholars who have studied this parable agree that the widow’s husband most likely owed a large sum of money to a certain creditor. Upon his death, the creditor confiscated all his possessions and left the widow totally destitute. She had no children, no home, no money and no friends. Ellen White comments: “The woman who entreated the judge for justice had lost her husband by death. Poor and friendless, she had no means of retrieving her ruined fortunes.” (COL 165)

4. Christ describes the **elect** as living especially in the midst of the final time of trouble: “And except those days [the time of trouble] should be _____, there should no flesh be saved: but for the _____ sake those days shall be shortened. . . . For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great _____ and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very _____.” (Mt. 24:22, 24)
5. The parable tells us that the woman _____ to the judge for justice. (Lk. 18:3)

Note: The verb “came” here is better translated “kept coming” or “continued coming.” The sense of the verb is seen in verse 5 where the judge says: “I will avenge her, lest by her **continual** coming she weary me.” The widow did not come once and then give up. She was perseverant, persistent and insistent. She was not about to give up.

6. The **adversary** (*antidikón*) in the parable represents _____. In I Peter 5:8 we are warned: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your _____ the _____, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____.”

Note: Ellen White remarks: “Satan is the great adversary. . . . The work of Satan as an accuser began in heaven. This has been his work on earth ever since man’s fall, and it will be his work in a special sense as we approach nearer to the close of this world’s history.” (COL 166, 167-168).

7. The judge **delayed** in answering the widow’s pleas. We are told that “he would not for a _____.” (Lk. 18:4) Likewise, God will delay in answering the pleas of His elect: “And shall not God _____ his own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though he bear _____ with them?” (Lk. 18:7)

Note: The expression, “though he bear long with them” is variously translated. The New International Version says: “Will he keep **putting them off**?” The Jerusalem Bible has it: “even when he **delays** to help them?” The Weymouth translation states: “although he **delays** vengeance on their behalf?” It is clear that God will delay in delivering His people!! Yet the contrast between God and the judge is clear. Whereas the judge capriciously delays to answer the widow but finally does to get her off his back, God delays to answer his elect because He loves them.

The Special Fulfillment of the Parable

1. We have seen that the judge represents _____, the adversary is the _____, and the widow symbolizes the _____. Though this parable applies generally to all ages, it applies especially to those who will go through the time of trouble.
2. The widow woman represents God’s afflicted people: “The beloved of God pass _____ days, bound in chains, shut in prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons. No _____ ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them _____.” (GC 626)
3. The adversary represents Satan: “As _____ accuses the people of God on account of their sins, the Lord permits him to try them to the _____. Their confidence in God, their faith and firmness, will be _____ tested.” (GC 618)
4. Like the widow, the faith of God’s people will not waver in spite of the delay: “Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not _____ answered. Though

suffering the keenest anxiety, _____ and distress, they do not _____ their intercessions.” (GC 619)

5. The expression “cry out” in the parable translates the Greek word *boao*. This is a very intense word which describes a person crying out in agony. It is used in Acts 8:7 where the evil _____ cried out as they were cast out by the apostles. It is also used in Luke 9:38 where the _____ cried out to Jesus for healing. In Matthew 27:46 we find Jesus crying out “ My God, My God, Why hast thou _____ Me.”

6. The following paragraph from The Great Controversy, pp. 630-631 explains the reason for the delay:

Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their _____ and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must _____ yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup and be baptized with the baptism. The very _____, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience. Yet for the _____ sake the time of trouble will be _____. "Shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him? . . . I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." Luke 18:7, 8.

7. The agonizing prayers of God’s people and the delay can be illustrated with the experience of _____ in Genesis 32. When his brother was coming to destroy him, Jacob poured out his heart to God and struggled with Him all night. Finally, in the morning, God _____ him and changed his _____ (Genesis 32:28, 29)

8. The story of Job also illustrates the plight of God’s people in the time of trouble. Job lost all he had—children, wife, friends, possessions, health. He was accused by _____ before the heavenly courts. He pleaded with God for an explanation of his sufferings. Yet he exclaimed: “Though He _____ me, yet will I _____ in Him.” (Job 13:15). In the end, Job’s prayers were heard and his cause was vindicated!

9. Perseverant prayer is also illustrated by the story of the woman of _____. In spite of the fact that Jesus kept putting her off, she boldly continued coming. Finally, Jesus said: “O woman, great is thy _____.” (Mt. 15:21-28)

10. The time of delay in the time of trouble is described in Isaiah 54:7-8: “For a small _____ have I forgotten thee; but with great _____ will I gather thee. In a _____ wrath I _____ my face from thee for a _____; but with everlasting kindness will I have _____ one thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer.”

The Unanswered Question is Answered

1. This parable ends with a question which is left unanswered: “Nevertheless, when the Son of man _____, shall he find _____ on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).
2. This question is answered in Revelation 14:12: “Here is the _____ [better, “perseverance”] of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the _____ of Jesus.” The question is, What is the faith of Jesus? It is the faith which Jesus had during His trials. And what was that faith like?
3. All the elements of this parable are present in the passion of Jesus in the Garden and on the cross. The adversary who tortured Jesus was _____. (Lk. 22:53) Jesus had nothing on earth to lean upon. His _____ forsook him (Mt. 26:56). He did not even have any _____ on His back. (Mt. 27:35) He begged His Father to take away the _____. (Mt. 26:39-44) Yet the answer did not appear to come, it was delayed. Jesus felt _____ of His own Father. (Mt. 27:46) Yet in the end He was vindicated.
4. Hebrews 5:7 describes the perseverant faith of Jesus: “Who in the days of his _____, when he had offered up _____ and _____ with strong _____ and _____ unto him that was able to _____ him from death, and was _____ in that he feared..”

Why the Delay?

1. Notice the reason for the trials of Jesus: “Though he were a _____, yet he _____ he _____ by the things which he _____.” (Heb. 5:8)
2. Job explained the benefit of his trials: “When he [God] hath _____ me, I shall come forth as _____.” (Job 23:10) This can be illustrated by the three young men who were thrown into the fiery furnace. When they came forth, their characters were composed of pure gold.
3. Ellen White explains that all “_____ must be consumed that the _____ of Christ might be _____ reflected.” (GC 621).
4. The apostle Peter explained the reason why God allows trials: “Wherein ye greatly _____, though now for a _____, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations. That the _____ of your faith, being much more precious than of _____ that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. . .” (I Peter 1:6-7; read also James 5:7-8; Hebrews 10:37-39; Luke 21:16-19)

3. “The Lord _____ trials in order that we may be _____ from earthliness, from _____, from harsh, _____ traits of character.” (COL 175)

The Prayer Life of Jesus

1. The prayer life of Jesus is described in Mark 1:35: “And in the _____, rising up a great while _____ day, he went out, and departed into a _____ place, and there prayed.”

Note: Jesus did not utter **long public** prayers. His prayer life was defined by a one on one conversation with His Father. So it must be with us.

2. It is vital for us to learn to pray before the final crisis. Ellen White has stated:

“The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger--a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded. Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God--how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.

“Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble, because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement.

We should now acquaint ourselves with God by proving His promises. Angels record every prayer that is earnest and sincere. We should rather dispense with selfish gratifications than neglect communion with God. The deepest poverty, the greatest self-denial, with His approval, is better than riches, honors, ease, and friendship without it. We must take time to pray. If we allow our minds to be absorbed by worldly interests, the Lord may give us time by removing from us our idols of gold, of houses, or of fertile lands.”

3. Let us always remember that “”Prayer moves the _____ of _____.” (COL 172)

