

IT'S WHAT WE DO

Week 6: Love Persists

#6/6

May 5 & 6, 2018

Pastor Jeff Bogue

WE ARE IN A SERIES IN WHICH WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT WE DO, AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS.

AMBASSADORS

COMPASSIONATE CHRIST FOLLOWERS

HELP MAKE JESUS MAKE SENSE

THIS PAST WEEKEND WAS A BLAST TO BE A PART OF FOR A BUNCH OF REASONS:

- OFFERED HOPE AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE
- REMIND OURSELVES THAT CHURCH IS NOT JUST ATTENDANCE...
- BEGAN TO TEACH OUR KIDS WHAT THE CHURCH IS ACTUALLY LIKE...

THIS PAST WEEKEND WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO “DO WHAT WE DO”, AND A REMINDER THAT WE ARE ALWAYS CALLED TO “DO WHAT WE DO”.

THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES AND THE CHALLENGES THAT ACCOMPANIED IT, MANY OF US HAVE BEEN IN GOD’S WORD, WE’VE BEEN “HIDING IT IN OUR HEARTS”, WE HAVE BEEN PRAYING FOR OUR THREE, AND SOME HAVE STARTED TO STRATEGICALLY THINK THROUGH HOW TO INTENTIONALLY BE “SALT AND LIGHT” TO THOSE WHOM GOD HAS PLACED IN OUR NATURAL PATH OF LIFE.

THIS WEEKEND I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES ABOUT TURNING SPIRITUAL FOCUSES INTO A LIFESTYLE OF SERVING HIM AND PROCLAIMING HIS STORY.

LUKE 18:1-8 PG.# 731

LUKE 18:1

THEN JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES A PARABLE TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY **SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT GIVE UP.**

- JESUS IS TEACHING THAT SPIRITUAL ENGAGEMENT IS NOT A ONE AND DONE ENDEAVOR; IT IS A LIFE STYLE, A DISCIPLINE, AND TAKES GRIT.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

JESUS USES AN ILLUSTRATION OF SOMEONE WHO THE CULTURE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF AS POWERLESS - A WIDOW...

WHO WAS PUSHING UP AGAINST SOMEONE ALL POWERFUL - A JUDGE.

LUKE 18:2-5

HE SAID: "IN A CERTAIN TOWN THERE WAS A JUDGE WHO **NEITHER FEARED GOD NOR CARED WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT.** AND THERE WAS A WIDOW IN THAT TOWN WHO KEPT COMING TO HIM WITH THE PLEA, 'GRANT ME JUSTICE AGAINST MY ADVERSARY.' FOR SOME TIME HE REFUSED. BUT FINALLY HE SAID TO HIMSELF, 'EVEN THOUGH I DON'T FEAR GOD OR CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK, YET BECAUSE THIS WIDOW KEEPS BOTHERING ME, I WILL SEE THAT SHE GETS JUSTICE, SO THAT SHE WON'T EVENTUALLY COME AND ATTACK ME!'"

- I LIKE THIS LADY! 😊
- A LITTLE OLD LADY HAS THE POWERFUL MAN IN TOWN SHAKING IN HIS BOOTS.

THEN JESUS GIVES AN APPLICATION TO HIS DISCIPLES...

LUKE 18:6-7

AND THE LORD SAID, "LISTEN TO WHAT THE UNJUST JUDGE SAYS. AND WILL NOT GOD BRING ABOUT JUSTICE FOR HIS CHOSEN ONES, **WHO CRY OUT TO HIM DAY AND NIGHT?** WILL HE KEEP PUTTING THEM OFF?

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

- THIS MEANS A TON TO CHRIST FOLLOWERS:
 - YOUR PAIN WILL NOT GO UNADDRESSED.
 - YOUR INJUSTICE WILL NOT PASS WITHOUT YOUR ADVERSARY BEING DEALT WITH.
 - YOUR PRAYERS WILL NOT GO UNANSWERED.
 - YOUR INVESTMENTS WILL NOT GO WITHOUT RETURN.

Below: 1 Slide 2 Clicks

2 PETER 3:8-9

BUT DO NOT FORGET THIS ONE THING, DEAR FRIENDS: WITH THE LORD **A DAY IS LIKE A THOUSAND YEARS, AND A THOUSAND YEARS ARE LIKE A DAY.** THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. **INSTEAD HE IS PATIENT** WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTANCE.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO MISTAKE THE LORD'S PATIENCE FOR HIS ABSENCE OF APATHY.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

THIS DEAR WIDOW IS WORKING AGAINST A CULTURE –
THAT NEITHER KNOWS GOD OR CARES ABOUT CREATING A FAÇADE OF SPIRITUAL
INTEREST.

- MANY PEOPLE ARE LIKE THE UNJUST JUDGE:
 - DO NOT SEE INJUSTICE
 - ECONOMIC INEQUALITY
 - PEOPLE AS SPIRITUAL BEINGS
 - THE DANGERS OF HELL
 - THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE
 - THE ETERNAL ECHOES OF “A CUP OF COOL WATER”

AS CHRIST FOLLOWERS, WE HAVE COMMITTED OUR LIVES TO SOMEONE AND SOMETHING
THAT MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NEITHER KNOW OR CARE ABOUT.... THAT IS WHY WE
OFTEN FEEL (CORRECTLY) THAT WE ARE SWIMMING UP HILL.

- THE ONLY ONE ON YOUR TEAM WHO...
- THE ONLY VIRGIN...
- THE WEIRD FAMILY WHO...

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A TIME WHEN LIVING OUT THE HEART AND MIND OF CHRIST HAS
BEEN EMBRACED BY THE CULTURE CHRIST FOLLOWERS LIVE IN.

THE TRUE CHURCH HAS ALWAYS STOOD APART FROM THE CULTURE ON THINGS LIKE:

MORALITY

MONEY

POWER

** AND WHEN THE CHURCH HAS ALIGNED, IT IS BECAUSE THE CHURCH
HAS COMPROMISED THE GOSPEL.

THIS CAN BE DISCOURAGING AND FRUSTRATING, BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OF EXPENDING THIS
LEVEL OF ENERGY FOR A LIFETIME CAN BE OVERWHELMING.

THAT IS WHY ...

“THEN JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES A PARABLE TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY **SHOULD**
ALWAYS PRAY AND **NOT GIVE UP.**”

1 JOHN 4:4

YOU, DEAR CHILDREN, **ARE FROM GOD AND HAVE OVERCOME** THEM, BECAUSE **THE ONE** WHO IS **IN YOU** IS **GREATER** THAN THE ONE WHO IS IN THE WORLD.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

SO...

PRAY AND DON'T GIVE UP!!

- THOSE KIDS ARE WORTH THE FIGHT
- THOSE WOMEN
- THAT SINGLE PARENT
- THOSE TEENAGERS
- YOUR NEIGHBOR
- YOUR FRIENDS AT THE GYM
- YOUR FAMILY
- THOSE PEOPLE IN A FAR-OFF LAND
- OUR CITY

CONTEND FOR THEIR SOULS!!!

WE PRAY AND DON'T GIVE UP, BECAUSE WE SERVE A "JUST JUDGE" WHOSE PASSION FOR A LOST AND DYING WORLD IS GREATER THAN OURS COULD EVER BE, AND "WHO FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM, ENDURED THE CROSS" ... HE PRAYED IN THE GARDEN, AND DIDN'T GIVE UP.

JESUS' HEART SCREAMS THROUGH IN THE LAST VERSE...

LUKE 18:8

I TELL YOU, HE WILL SEE THAT THEY GET JUSTICE, AND QUICKLY. **HOWEVER, WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES, WILL HE FIND FAITH ON THE EARTH?**

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

- WHO IS WITH ME?
 - WILL MY PEOPLE LOVE LIKE I LOVE?
 - WILL THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES LIKE I GIVE MINE?
 - WILL THEY VALUE WHAT I VALUE?
 - WILL THEY CEASE TO PRAY... AND GIVE UP?

KEEP PRAYING FOR YOUR THREE.
KEEP LEARNING NEW WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT.
KEEP SERVING PEOPLE (USE THIS AS A SPARK).
KEEP TEACHING YOUR KIDS WHAT A TRUE CHURCH IS.