

(31) Parables: Persistent Widow; Pharisee & Tax Collector (Lk. 18:1-14)

1. The Parable of the Persistent Widow teaches continuous communication with heaven (Lk. 18:1-8).
  - a. Prayer needs to be taught (Lk. 11:1) and shown (Lk. 18:1).
  - b. If prayer is always the focus (Lk. 11:5-8; Gen. 32:24-26; Isa. 62:6,7; Acts 10:2; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2,12; 1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 5:17), losing heart is never the result (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:1,16; Gal. 6:9; Eph. 3:13; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thess. 3:13).
  - c. The unrighteous judge feared a black eye if he continued to frustrate the widow (Lk. 18:5).
  - d. The unrighteous judge is maladjusted both regarding spiritual and temporal issues (Lk. 18:2,4). God is neither.
  - e. God may delay, but He won't delay long (Lk. 18:7). His justice will come quickly (Lk. 18:8 cf. Rev. 22:20).
  - f. Prolonged night & day communication with heaven is an application of faith—one that will grow more rare in the last days (Lk. 18:8).
2. The Parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector teaches continuous humility on earth (Lk. 18:9-14).
  - a. The parable is addressed to those having-been-self-persuaded righteous types. Perfect active ptc.  $\pi\rho\epsilon\acute{\iota}\theta\omega$  peithō #3982<sub>52x</sub>.
  - b. These self-persuaded “righteous” types viewed others with contempt.  $\epsilon\acute{\xi}\theta\upsilon\theta\epsilon\nu\acute{\epsilon}\omega$  exoutheneō #1848<sub>11x</sub> (Lk. 18:9; 23:11; Acts 4:11; Rom. 14:3,10; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 1:28; 6:4; 16:11; 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 10:10; Gal. 4:14; 1<sup>st</sup> Thess. 5:20).

Principle: Trusting self motivates contempt, but trusting the Lord motivates courageous evangelism (Phil. 1:14), and is the most vital consideration in enduring affliction (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 1:9).

- c. The Pharisee thanked God that his works made him unlike others (Lk. 18:11-12).
- d. The Tax Collector pleaded for God's mercy despite his works (Lk. 18:13).
- e. God's judicial evaluation of our exaltation-humility spectrum produces an inversely proportionate humiliation-exaltation spectrum (Lk. 18:14).

