

Precious Faith

by Erlo Stegen

The sermon emphasizes the critical importance of possessing a genuine and precious faith that endures trials and reflects a deep personal relationship with God.

Duration: 39:58

Scripture: Genesis 19:24-25, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 24:44, Mark 7:25-30, Luke 18:8, Ephesians 5:27, Hebrews 11:6

Topics: "Faith"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge. He emphasizes the importance of having a faith that perseveres and does not lose heart. The preacher warns that without this kind of faith, one is destined for damnation. He urges the congregation to deeply consider whether they possess this kind of faith and to pray for God to grant them such faith.

Transcript

In our text, we find in Luke 18 Which verse? Luke 18, verse 8, verse 8. This was a question put by the Lord Jesus. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? If you listen to what Umpir said, you would say faith is coming to an end. Because the theologian, Dr. Gaum, said, yes, even though you now believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God, but after 10 years, you'll read it in a different way.

Well, if one listens to those things, then you can say, yes, this is applicable to this. Will he still find faith when he comes back, Jesus? But let's forget about the Sodomites and those citizens from Gomorrah. If you read this, then you say, no Lord, this is a strange question.

When you come back, your bride will be ready for you. There will be so many people. Just look at all the people that get converted.

Just look at all the people. There are so many, more than ever before, Charismatics, Pentecostals, all the different churches. There are so many believers.

How can you, Lord, utter such a question that when you come back, will you find faith in this world? In the German translation it says, do you think he'll find faith on earth? Yes. When I come back. There are so many people that get converted, that become Christians.

Just listen to what they say on the radio and television. How can you, Lord, utter such a question? Will he find faith when he comes back? Or not? There are so many believers. Just look at all of us here.

And he asks us, do you think I'll find faith when I come back? He asks us, do you think I'll find faith when I come back? He asks us, do you think I'll find faith when I come back? Maybe there won't be anyone there. Or maybe one or two. But he says to us, do you think I'll find faith when I come back? What kind of faith is that, that he's looking for, that's like a pearl for him? The best faith that he's looking for.

Faith. Each one of us has to ask himself, do I have that faith? We're all believers, but what does it mean? Jacob says, there are many who believe, but the devils also believe. And yet, Jesus asks this question.

In other words, there is a particular quality of faith that he's looking for, that he wants now amidst. That which is the best, which is like a pearl. And each one of us have to examine our lives and ask ourselves the question, do we have that faith which Jesus expressed to us? Have you got this type of faith? I want you to go out of here today knowing what quality, what type of faith you have.

Is it this quality that's worth more than gold purified in the fire? If we look at this whole passage in context and we don't just look at the one verse, Jesus says there was a judge. He was a hard judge who didn't believe, who didn't fear God, who was unconcerned about people. And at night there was a knock at the door.

It was a woman, a widow. And she said, judge please help me, I've got a problem, I've got enemies. Grant me justice against my adversary and he says don't come and waste my time, I don't have time for you.

But this woman persevered, she kept on. She didn't lose heart. And for some time, quite a while, a long time, he kept on refusing her, not taking any notice.

But she kept on persevering. Eventually, this judge who didn't fear God, who didn't care about men, who had easily condemned somebody to death and didn't feel a thing about that, this woman, this widow, who's keeping on bothering me and disturbing me, let me do for her what she wants so that she would stop bothering me. So he said, let me, I'll see to it that she gets justice.

And then Jesus said, do you hear what that unbelieving judge said? He said, just listen to what this unjust judge said. He said, I'll give her justice just so that she would stop pestering me and troubling me. And he said, in that way, you need to keep on praying and not lose heart.

And Jesus said, will God not bring about justice for his chosen ones who cry out to him day and night? Will he not be patient with them? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see to it that they get justice. Do you see? Will Jesus find faith when he comes to earth? With some, he will find faith. But with others, he'll find that they've lost heart.

They've become weary. They've given it all up. They said, well, if their faith in Christian life is like this, I'm leaving it.

You find Christian, he's crying or she's crying. Women cry more than men. She's crying.

Why? Oh, Mrs. So-and-so didn't greet me properly. Or she said I'm a thief. Or she has told lies about me.

And you find the Christian down in the dumps. Will he find faith? God said, after 10 years, there won't be faith anymore in Peter's life. That he won't believe the Bible.

Satan comes a mile away, and you run to him. I said that type of faith is out of hell. The same type of faith that the devil has who believes and trembles.

It's not a saving faith. Have you got that precious faith that is more costly, that is much better than pure gold purified by the fire? To the Lord it's the best. There's nothing.

Fame, good works, done many things. It doesn't mean a thing. He'll look for this kind of faith and will he find it in your life? If you haven't got this kind of faith, you are on your way to hell.

Because Jesus says, if you believe, you'll have eternal life, you'll be saved. If you don't believe, you are doomed and damned in this world and in the world to come. This faith makes the difference.

This is the time in which we remember the crucifixion of our Lord. If you believe that Jesus was crucified for your sin and that works in your life, you will be saved through that faith. Not just that you know it, but that it will be an experiential knowledge, in Greek, epignosis.

If I've got an apple here, I bite into that green apple and I say, oh, it's so sweet. In spite of being green, it's sweet. And if you are a veggie, you will say, yes, it's sweet.

It's sweet. But you haven't bitten into it. You say so because I say so.

But if you have bitten into that apple and you taste it for yourself, you'll know it is sweet. You can go to other people and say, it is sweet, or it's bitter. You've tasted it yourself.

And this faith is tasting it by yourself what Jesus is, that he bled and died and he shed his precious blood for you. This blood is precious to you. You'd rather die than part with that faith in Christ.

If I've got an apple here, I bite into that green apple and I say, oh, it's sweet. In spite of being green, it's sweet. But if you have bitten into that apple and you taste it for yourself, you'll know it is sweet.

And he made such a noise. He's very talkative. I say he, I'm sorry, I don't know whether it's a he or a she.

But this bird is very talkative. Talks a lot. Can greet people in Zulu.

Can sing and speak in other languages, English, Afrikaans, other languages. But it's an African Grey. Now, are you an African Grey? Believe it.

People have got to tell you, mustn't do this. Don't do that. Don't go with boys.

Don't flirt around. You must go to church. And you parent, when you pray for your child, pray for the devil's child.

Don't think, oh, because the child sits next to you. In secret, that child sins. Sins does the most blatant things.

And you call it a Christian. Oh, no. Oh, no.

A thousand times and ten thousand times, no. You haven't got the faith that Jesus is looking for. When the Son of Man comes into this world, do you think he'll follow you? Do you think so? What don't you think? Do you think he'll find this kind of faith? Forget about other people.

Think about yourself. Do you have this kind of faith? Or not? It will be a tragedy if he comes and you stand there. And he says, no, that's not the kind of faith that I want.

That's not the kind of faith that I want. That's not the kind of faith that is precious in my life. That's not the kind of faith that I want.

We don't know. He can come in death, through an accident, through a stroke. He can come in many different ways.

Will he find that faith, that precious faith, that is better than the best gold of greater value and greater value for him? He will not look for it when he comes. If you have it, you are blessed. If you don't have it, you know where you will end up.

Can I stop now? Is it clear to you? Have you understood? Our brothers said, these people don't understand. The Germans say he's got a head made out of wood. You can speak and speak and speak until you are blue and green in your face.

It doesn't help. You can say, yes, I know. I know.

I know. You don't know. You don't know the way you should know.

And if you don't register it now, maybe in hell, but then it's too late. Do you think that when the Son of Man comes, he will find faith in this world? You ask that question. You ask.

And may God in heaven make a note of it, of your answer. Now it's not just to say yes or no, but that you go deep and further and that you say, God grant me that kind of faith. Nothing less.

But that what you are looking for. Shall we pray? Let's stand. Oh God, you know each one of us as we are here.

Whether we are from overseas. Whether we are from Kwazulu. Whether we are Afrikaners.

Englishmen. Greeks or colors, whatever we might be. Examine, oh Lord, the heart of each one.

And may each one experience you addressing that question to him or to her. Whether they have this faith which you expect and are looking for. Amen.

There's a person that said, I just can't understand the life that I'm living. Because when I read the Bible, it's as if the heavens are open. God just speaks to me.

And I said, praise the Lord if that's the case.

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