

Will The Son Of Man Find Faith On Earth?

Luke 18:1-8 [New King James] *“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, saying: ‘There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’” Then the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge said. **And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?** I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?’”***

When we read this statement in the context of the parable of the persistent widow we cannot determine the answer to this question.

Jesus Christ told this parable to teach His disciples **not** to give up on prayer, [verse one].

But what has this to do with the Son of Man finding faith on earth at His Second Coming?

The widow in the parable showed faith of an unusually persevering quality, not in the unjust judge but faith in the efficacy of persistent prayer.

The point of the parable seems to be if even a conscienceless judge, who *“neither fears God nor regards other humans,”* sees to it that the widow gets her rights, not for the sake of seeing justice done but to get rest from her importunity, how much more will the Eternal God listen to His children’s plea for vindication?

The answer to the question that follows this parable suggests by interpretation to be “no.”

Humanity in general, it is suggested, do not really expect God to vindicate His chosen people, nor do they at heart expect the triumph of righteousness over evil!

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is a major theme in the preceding section of Luke’s record, [Luke 17:22-37].

The lesson impressed by this discourse on the hearers is that they must keep on alert and be ready for that day when it comes.

They must trust God who will vindicate their righteous cause if they continue to trust Him, and not lose heart.

They must here and now continually be faithfully occupied in the work assigned to them.

This is the lesson also of the parable in Luke 19:11-27.

The Son of Man’s Second Coming will be illuminating the sky from one side to another, [Luke 17:24] surveying the earth to see if there is “faith on it.”

Also any “faithful and wise steward” whom his Master when He comes will find him loyally fulfilling His service, [Luke 12:42-44].

The question “will the Son of Man find faith on earth?” remains an open question, for it depends on the faithful obedience of those who wait on His Second Coming.

2 Peter 3:10-13 [New King James] *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*

We **“hastening the coming of that day”** by being prepared for it as faithful stewards and bond slaves, [Greek “*dōulōs*”] purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ, [Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19] without personal “rights” only responsibilities towards our Master and Saviour.