

SERMON NOTES: February 21, 2016

WHY BOTHER? BE ONE I MAKE ONE

“A Rebellious Prayer”

Luke 17:20–18:8 (NIV)

20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, **21** nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the **kingdom of God is in your midst.**”

22 Then he said to his disciples, “**The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.** **23** People will tell you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do not go running off after them. **24** For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. **25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.**

THE REFERENCE IS TO HIS _____ AND _____ COMING.

YOU WILL NOT _____ IT.

26 “Just as it was **in the days of Noah**, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. **27** People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 “It was the same **in the days of Lot**. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29** But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

WE MUST BE _____ AND _____

QUESTION: How are we to maintain our vigilance in trying times?

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should **always pray and not give up.** **2** He said: “In a certain town there was **a judge** (Deuteronomy 24:17-22; 27:19) who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. **3** And there was **a widow** (Psalm 68:5; 146:9; James 1:27) in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’ ”

6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** 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? **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?”

PRAYER _____ AGAINST THE “WAY THINGS ARE”

PRAYER IS AN _____ PART OF THE ARMOR OF GOD

PRAYER CHANGES THE _____

PRAYER TO CHANGES _____

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION: February 21, 2016

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OPENING

Prayer can appear to be passive, a request to make our lives more manageable, a removal of life’s hardships. Listening to the content of our common prayers we may not hear much of a war cry. **What was your response to the prayer uttered in the movie “The War Room”?**

GOING DEEPER

Reflect on the following quotes. How might these truths prepare us to live out our faith with greater confidence?

The forces of injustice, oppression and war are so overwhelming that all our efforts to combat them will fail unless we first invite God into the fray. Until we have achieved victory in prayer, it is hopeless to engage the outer world in combat. [Strategic Prayer by John D. Robb; cited in Winter, Ralph; Hawthorne, Steven (2014-08-28). Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: Reader and Study Guide - eBook (Kindle Locations 10611-10612). William Carey Library. Kindle Edition.]

History belongs to the intercessors who believe the future into being.... Even a small number of people totally committed to the new inevitability, in which they affix their imaginations, can decisively affect the shape the future takes. These shapers of the future are the intercessors who call out the future, the longed-for new present. They believe the future into being. [Wink, Walter, Engaging the Powers: Discernment and Resistance in a World of Domination (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1992),p. 299]

CHALLENGE:

Will you live your life based on these truths? Will you share these truths with others?