

“2 Prayerables!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Announce Amazing Grace Movie:** Quotes on slavery.
- 1.2. **Outline:** 2 Parables on Prayer! (2 *Prayerables*)
- 1.3. (1-8) A parable to **the disciples**, to **pray & not lose heart**.
- 1.4. (9-14) A parable to **those who trust in themselves**, will walk away **unjustified**.

2. **PERSISTENCE PRAYER! (1-8)**

- 2.1. **PRAY OR PASS OUT!** (1-5)
- 2.2. Your choice **Pray** or **Pass-out** (*pale, faint, loose heart*)!
 - 2.2.1. 3 or 4 years ago I was having trouble with passing out at the gym.
 - 2.2.1.1. Scary feeling.
 - 2.2.2. **Q:** Ever feel like your **spiritually fainting**?
 - 2.2.3. **Q:** Ever **lose heart** in praying for something?
- 2.3. **This king** reminds me of the **TV commercial** where young kids are asking their dads for a **cell phone**. It is inferred the kids have asked before:
 - 2.3.1. One asks his dad while fishing, “Dad, I think its time for me to get a cell phone!” Father answers, “Son, I think its time for you to get a job!”
 - 2.3.2. Another asks his father for a cell phone while standing in the garage, (*dad with buffer in his hand*) when his son starts to ask the question the dad fires up the buffer, “what, I can’t hear you!”
- 2.4. He sent her home with...*“Next case please!”*
 - 2.4.1. Judges were often unscrupulous. Most, as is the case today in 3rd world countries, make there living off bribes.¹
 - 2.4.2. Bribes were normally sent **a few days ahead** of their visit, to get them audience & a fair shake, or to encourage it to “go their way”.
 - 2.4.3. Thus if someone showed up “*unannounced*” w/o a bribe before them, this meant they must be **poor**.
 - 2.4.4. His servant would say the judge was **busy**, or **could not be seen**.
 - 2.4.4.1. The judge knew it would be a “*waste of time*” hearing their case
 - 2.4.5. **Her only weapon...persistent pestering!** [And she did it well] 😊
- 2.5. **She weary me** – to annoy, or (Lit.) “*to give a black eye*”.
 - 2.5.1. He finally reaches a stage where he would do anything to **get her out of his hair**.

¹ Gospel Light; pg.294, 295.

- 2.6. **KEEP SHOVELING!** (6-8)
- 2.7. (6) Many have misunderstood this parable.
- 2.7.1. Understand the bible uses **comparisons** (**we** are like **sheep!**);
& also it uses **contrasts** (sheep & goats). [**Which is this parable?**]
- 2.7.2. This is a clear **contrast** between this **earthly king** & the **heavenly King**.
- 2.7.3. This is a **contrast** to the **worst of man**, & the **best of God**.
- 2.8. (7,8a) **Day & night** – That’s praying w/o ceasing.
- 2.9. **If an unjust judge helps a poor widow, how much more will a loving Father meet the needs of His children?** (www)
- 2.10. God also rewards persistency by his children, **not because** of **weariness** but rather due to **His faithfulness!**
- 2.10.1. *John Piper* uses the **illustration: Faith** is the **Furnace** in your life.
- 2.10.1.1. **Fuel = Grace; Shovel = Prayer.**
- 2.10.1.2. **If you set down your shovel...your burner goes out!**
- 2.10.1.3. **Keep shoveling!** [Shovel w/o stopping; pray w/o ceasing]
- 2.11. **Q: Persistent in prayer in general, or being persistent in the same prayer?**
- 2.11.1. Does God want us to keep running to him asking for the **same thing over & over?** [**Does that bless you when your kids do that?**]
- 2.11.1.1. Or, is it a blessing that they continue to see they need to be **connected** to you? [i.e. a continual coming, but not nec for the same thing]
- 2.11.2. I know it’s not arm wrestling God in prayer for something, because he said in 12:32, **“fear not little flock, it’s your Fathers good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”**
- 2.11.2.1. **He’s liberal, quick, He loves to answer!!! (speedily)**
- 2.11.3. Don’t ever think you need to **“wear him down”** until he acts on our behalf.
- 2.11.3.1. **As a Father He is sensitive to our every need & ready to answer** our prayers, in His perfect timing.
- 2.11.4. **God vindicates His kids who come to Him “all the time”!**
- 2.11.5. **How can we pray always?**
- 2.11.5.1. **What is prayer?** Not just uttering words.
- 2.11.5.2. It’s **the urge** of the life towards God & spiritual things.
It’s **the setting** of the mind on the things above.
It’s **every detail of every day** being mastered by that urge.
- 2.12. (8b) **When the Son of man comes** – i.e. 2nd Coming He spoke of in the last chapter.
- 2.12.1. Go back to the context **17:26,30**. [Things will be *“business as usual”*]
- 2.13. **Find faith on the earth?** – Jesus tells His followers to persevere in faith in the difficult times ahead.
- 2.13.1. Will you believe (have **faith**, vs.8) **or lose heart(1)?**
- 2.13.2. Christian...**“it’s prayer or fainting! Which will it be?”**

3. THE STATUE & THE SPONGE! (9-14)

- 3.1. (9) As one said, “If **Grace** is like **rain**, then one is a **statue** & one is a **sponge!**”
- 3.1.1. **Can you picture that?** (Both being rained on yet: 1 **repelling** water, the other **absorbing** it)
- 3.2. (10) **2 men** – each was a man; only a man.
- 3.2.1. **Whenever a man crosses the threshold** of the temple/church, that is how they are listed by high heaven!
- 3.2.1.1. Employer can sit next to employee, & cop next to ex-convict.
- 3.2.2. **Both went up to pray, & right their in their prayers the difference was revealed.**
- 3.3. Private prayer can be offered in the temple at any time of the day.
- 3.4. **THE STATUE!** (11-12)
- 3.5. (11) **Stood & prayed with himself** – I’m fully convinced Jesus was hilarious.
- 3.5.1. **Listen to His satire, wit, irony!**
- 3.5.2. This man essentially prayed a “**self-eulogy!**” (tribute)
- 3.5.2.1. **A long list of personal achievements.** [Note “I” 5 x’s]
- 3.5.3. Isn’t it interesting that one could **feel glad** that he doesn’t sin in **one way**, while he is **sinning** in another & perhaps **worse way!**²
- 3.5.4. He had an **intellectual conviction** to come pray, **but yet doesn’t make contact** with God. [**Hell is full of intellectual conviction!**]
- 3.6. **God?** – Well, at last he started with that...but he never made another ref to Him.
- 3.7. (12) Fasting requirement was only once a year at day of Atonement.
- 3.7.1. **Wow! Here, twice a week!** (104 x’s)
- 3.7.2. **Tithes of all**, not just of field & stall.
- 3.7.3. I guess he not only knew this, but was determined **God should know it from him, & others also.**
- 3.8. When all is said & done, I guess he not only **prayed to himself**, but he also **tithed to his own savings account, & fasted for his own health!**
- 3.8.1. Interesting, you can do all the **right things** but to no avail if it’s w/the **wrong heart.**
- 3.9. **Pride** is so subtle that if we aren’t careful we’ll be **proud of our humility!** 😊
- 3.9.1. When this happens our **goodness** becomes **badness.** Our **virtues** become **vices.**
- 3.9.2. We can easily become like the *Sunday School teacher* who, having told the story of the **Pharisee** and the **publican**, said, “**Children, let’s bow our heads and thank God we are not like the Pharisee!**”
- 3.10. **The Pharisee’s prayer showed** he was **self-centered; showed** he was **conceited; showed his morality was based on negatives; showed his worship was based on externals.**

² Griffith Thomas; pg.274

- 3.11. **THE SPONGE!** (13,14)
- 3.12. (13) **Standing afar off** – not front & center, off in a corner it seems.
- 3.13. **Would not...raise his eyes** – Faith looks away...not at self!
- 3.14. (13b) **God** – He starts the same way, but **attitude** is totally different.
- 3.15. He does use “**me**”, but immediately is followed up by a description of the person referred to, **a sinner!** [Oh, how he hated his sin!]
- 3.16. His prayer – was like David’s in Ps.51:1 “**Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.**”
- 3.17. **The publican’s prayer** showed he was **humble** before God and man; showed he was more aware of **his own sins** than those of others; showed he was not concerned about obtaining **material wealth**; showed he was conscious of his **standing before God**.
- 3.18. (14) What a shock for his listeners to hear that **the sinner** walked away justified, & not **the holy man!**
- 3.18.1. The Pharisee was so busy priding himself on his performance that he failed to realize he lacked the essential requirement of a **rt attitude**.³
- 3.18.2. God relates to those who **lost their pride & humbled themselves** in repentance!
- 3.18.3. I remember being involved in the prison ministry @ C.C.Bellflower when Kel when we were 1st married. The **stark contrast** was so easily seen between the inmates who “**had been framed**” to those who were “**broken because of the sin**” that landed them there.
- 3.19. It’s like when *Frederick the Great, King of Prussia*, visited a prison and talked with each of the inmates. There were endless tales of innocence, of misunderstood motives, and of exploitation. Finally the king stopped at the cell of a convict who remained silent. “Well,” remarked Frederick, “I suppose you are an innocent victim too?” “No, sir, I’m not,” replied the man. “I’m guilty and deserve my punishment.” Turning to the warden, the king said, “Here, release this **rascal** before he corrupts all these **fine innocent people** in here!”
- 3.20. In Haiti I noticed the kids love **empty** balloons over **filled** balloons.
- 3.20.1. They would let out air, to use later. **God likes them the same way!**
- 3.21. **Balloon Illustration:**
- 3.21.1. [1st man] Blow up balloon w/each of his statements. **Pop at end!**
- 3.21.1.1. He was **puffed up...filled** with his own hot air!
- 3.21.2. [2nd man] No hot air, “love is not puffed up”. [Limp]
- 3.21.2.1. **Humble** = *lowly*, the idea is “*close to the ground*”.
- 3.21.2.2. He likes us **empty, not full of ourselves**.

³ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.66

Amazing Grace the Movie! (Hit theatres Friday)

- **John Newton** – was a slave trader for many years. He came to Christ after a terrible storm. Was finally convicted not only to stop trading slaves, but to help in establishing their freedom. He wrote the song Amazing Grace.
- **William Wilberforce** - born in England in 1759, elected to the House of Commons at the age of 21. During his time in Parliament, he led the political battle to **abolish slavery** and its trade throughout the British Empire.

Slavery still exists today!

- An estimated **27 million** are in slavery around the world. (U.N. website) <http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/issue3/0305p28.html>
 - More than **double** the #, in the 400 yrs, of the Trans-Atlantic slave trades to the Americas.
- **All** racial groups are objects of trade (on almost every continent).
- Women & children are its principle victims.

Forced labour. An estimated **246 million children** are engaged in exploitative child labor, with almost 3/4 of them working in hazardous environments & w/ dangerous substances like chemicals and agricultural pesticides. (Int. Labor Org.)

Human trafficking. The use of **children as a commodity** for labor or sex is a lucrative international trade. An estimated **1.2 million children** worldwide are trafficked each year. Girls as young as 13, mainly from **Asia** and **Eastern Europe**, are trafficked as “*mail-order brides*”.

Sexual exploitation. About **1 million children**, mostly girls but also a significant number of boys, are exploited every year in the **multi-billion-dollar sex industry**.

Child soldiers. At any given time, **over 300,000 child soldiers**, as **young as 8**, are exploited in armed conflicts in more than **30 countries** around the world.

What do we do?

- **Understand** - All humans are created equal. (Even if they have the word prostitute after their name)
 - They are not a lower class, they are still members of the human family, they are not a “lesser breed”.
- **Realize & Research** – This is a Reality & a Tragedy.
- **Be a voice** - For those who do not have one.
- **Go to** www.theamazingchange.com a lot of info there (Slavery then & now).