

Bible Stories: Perseverance

Hebrews 12:1,2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us ² and persevere in running the race that lies before us

2

while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

Lk 8:4-15

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable.

5

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up.

6

Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture.

7

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

8

And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

9

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be.

10

He answered, "Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of God has been granted to you; but to the rest, they are made known through parables so that 'they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.'

11

⁴ "This is the meaning of the parable. The seed is the word of God.

12

Those on the path are the ones who have heard, but the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved.

13

Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial.

14

As for the seed that fell among thorns, they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along, they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life, and they fail to produce mature fruit.

15

But as for the seed that fell on rich soil, they are the ones who, when they have heard the word, embrace it with a generous and good heart, and bear fruit through perseverance.

16

Rev 3:8

"I know your works (behold, I have left an open door ⁶ before you, which no one can close). You have limited strength, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

Luke 11:5-8

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,
6 for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,'
7 and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.'
8 I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

Luke 18: 1-8

¹ Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said,
2 "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being.
3 And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.'
4 For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being,
5 ² because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'
6 The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says.
7 Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them?
8

I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

1Cor9:19-27

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible.

20

To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law--though I myself am not under the law--to win over those under the law.

21

To those outside the law I became like one outside the law--though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ--to win over those outside the law.

22

To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some.

23

All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

24

⁸ Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win.

25

Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.

26

Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing.

27

No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.⁹