

BIBLE STUDY
October 10, 2022

THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 17: 8-13

Luke 18: 1-8

2 Timothy 3: 14—4:2

1. Exodus 17: 8-13

- This is an inspirational story about the power of Moses as an intercessor and the value of persistence in prayer. When Moses' arms were held up, the Israelites were winning. When his arms grew tired and he lowered them, the battle turned against the Israelites.
- The Amalekites were inhabitants of southern Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula.

2. Luke 18: 1-8

- After the story of the Samaritan leper who returns to give thanks, Jesus teaches about the end of time. (17: 20-27) The Pharisees ask Jesus when the Kingdom of God will come. Jesus warns them that the Kingdom's coming will not come with unmistakable signs. The Kingdom of God is in our midst, meaning that the Kingdom of God is already here in invisible signs that a person can only discern through faith. Do not believe those who say they know when the Kingdom will come. The Kingdom will come without warning just as the flood and the destruction of Sodom came without warning. Salvation will be based on those who believe in Jesus not on any earthly status or relationships. Those who accept suffering as the path to glory as Jesus did will be saved.
- After these frightening and challenging words, Jesus encourages his disciples by teaching about the power of prayer and the need for persistence in prayer. He tells a parable about a persistent widow and an unscrupulous judge. He contrasts the judge to God. If the unscrupulous judge will give what the widow wants due to her persistence, how much more will God give his people what they need if they persist in prayer. Prayer must not only be persistent but must be with the proper attitude of accepting struggle with those who oppose the Kingdom or are blind to its approach. Disciples must not adopt a proud or boastful attitude as they wait.
- Jesus' assurance that God will come to the defense of his chosen ones and quickly answer their prayers refers to his care of them at the end of time at the coming of the Kingdom.
- The passage ends with a searing question of whether the Lord will find faith on the earth when he comes, will we persevere in faith (trust in God's promises), or will we become discouraged and give up hope?

3. 2 Timothy 3: 14—4:2

- Paul encourages Timothy to be faithful to the teaching that he has received from Paul. Paul reminds him that he has been raised in the faith

from his youth. The Scriptures are a source of wisdom for teaching and forming people in their relationship with God. Since the Scriptures are inspired by God who collaborates with the human author, they become the best tool for teaching, forming, correcting, and encouraging. God reveals himself through the human words of the biblical author.

- Timothy is to preach and teach the word always no matter what the circumstances. He is to teach the Word whether it is easy or difficult. Use it to form people in the faith according to their needs.