

Pastor Ron Case
3/5/23

“At First Glance...” (2)

“The first to speak in court sounds right— until the cross-examination begins.” (Proverbs 18:17 NLT)

...Evil seems to go Unchallenged

Jeremiah 12:1-4 – (1) “You are always righteous, O LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease? (2) You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts. (3) Yet you know me, O LORD; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter! (4) How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished...” (NIV)

Malachi 2:17 – “You have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, ‘How have we wearied him?’ By saying, ‘Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them.’ Or by asking, ‘Where is the God of justice?’”

Malachi 3:14-15 – (14) “You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? (15) And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

2 Timothy 3:12-13 – (12) Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, (13) while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

Daniel 7:25-26 – (25) “He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. (26) But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.”

T Examination:

Hebrews 12:3 – “Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Matthew 5:10-12 – (10) “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. (12) Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

John 16:20 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.”

Until Justice Comes:

(1) Wait without Hate

Psalms 37:5-11 – (5) “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. (6) He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. (7) Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! (8) Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. (9) For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. (10) In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. (11) But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.”

Proverbs 24:19-20 – (19) “Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, (20) for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.”

(2) See Evildoers through God’s Eyes

2 Peter 3:8-9 – (8) “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (9) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

(This message is available for review and sharing at alivein.me)