

Week 3

Series: That's Not in the Bible

Title: God Helps those who help themselves

“God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

Aesop's Fables: *Hercules & the Wagoner*

“However, let us hearken to good advice, and something maybe done for us; God helps them that help themselves, as Poor Richard says.” - Benjamin Franklin (Poor Richard's Almanac' “The Way to Wealth”)

“Jesus would have demanded that the homeless people shape themselves up or else, because, we all know the passage ‘The Lord helps those who help themselves.’” - Bill O'Reilly

“Being a Christian, I know that while Jesus promoted charity at the highest level, he was not self-destructive. The Lord helps those who help themselves.” - Bill O'Reilly

“I trust in God, but God wants us to help ourselves by putting people back to work.” – President Barak Obama

“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.” (Ar Ra'd 13:11 - Quran)

The bible actually says: God helps those who CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ In fact, when we were with you, this is what we commanded you: “If anyone isn’t willing to work, he should not eat.”

James 2:26 (CSB)

²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

James 4:8 (CSB)

⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Luke 18:9 (CSB)

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else:

➤ **THE LIE**

- **SELF-HELP is the best help.**

Luke 18:10-12 (CSB)

¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee was standing and praying like this about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I’m not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.’

Dangers in Self-Reliance

- Self-reliance can lead to **ARROGANCE**.

1 Peter 5:5 (CSB)

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

- Self-reliance makes you FORGET YOUR NEED.

Jeremiah 17:5 (CSB)

⁵ This is what the Lord says: Cursed is the person who trusts in mankind. He makes human flesh his strength, and his heart turns from the Lord.

➤ THE TRUTH

- God helps the helpless

Luke 18:13 (CSB)

¹³ “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’

- The Wrong way to approach God is with PRIDE.
- The Right way to approach God is in HUMILITY.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB)

²¹ He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Accepting God’s Grace

1. Admit that you are POWERLESS.

The most dangerous heresy: “The emphasis on what we do for God Instead of what God does for us.” – Dr Charles Swindoll

Psalm 94:17-19 (CSB)

¹⁷ If the Lord had not been my helper,
I would soon rest in the silence of death.

¹⁸ If I say, “My foot is slipping,”
your faithful love will support me, Lord.

¹⁹ When I am filled with cares,
your comfort brings me joy.

2. Admit that you trust GOD ALONE.

Psalm 121:1-3a (NIV)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

3. Help God HELP OTHERS.

Luke 18:14

¹⁴ I tell you, this one went down to his house justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

God justifies REPENTANT SINNERS not SELFRIGHTEOUS SAINTS.

“It's all right to tell a man to lift himself by his own bootstraps, but it is cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps.” -
Martin Luther King Jr

Matthew 25:41-45

⁴¹ “Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn’t take me in; I was naked and you didn’t clothe me, sick and in prison and you didn’t take care of me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵ “Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

Prayer by John Wesley:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,
exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.