HOWEVER

TEXT: (Luke 18:6-8, NIV)
6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

INTRODUCTION

1. "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need" (Luke 11:8, NIV).

I. LOSING YOUR FIRST LOVE

1. "Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4, KJV).

A. What Man Could See

1. "But I have *this* [charge] against you, that you have left your first love [you have lost the depth of love that you first had for Me]. So remember *the heights* from which you have fallen, and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God's will] and do the works you did at first[when you first knew Me]; otherwise, I will visit you and remove your lampstand (the church, its impact) from its place—unless you repent" (Revelation 2:4-5, AMP).

B. What the Lord Saw

1"Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn" (Isaiah 51:1, NIV).

C. Only One Solution

1. "Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:5, NIV).

II. SUCCUMBING TO THE CARES OF THIS LIFE

1. "We're all adrift in the same boat:too few days, too many troubles" (Job 14:1, MSG).

A. Parable of Sower

1. "Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful" (Matthew 13:7-8, NIV).
2. "You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming" (Hebrews 10:25, NCV).

III. TOO SATISFIED WITH THIS WORLD

A. Self-sufficiency

1. "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing" (Revelation 3:17, NIV).

2. “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:25, NIV).

B. How the Lord Saw Laodicea

1. “You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked” (Revelation 3:17, NIV).
2. “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33, NIV).

C. God’s Solution

1. “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am!

I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me” (Revelation 3:19-20, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (II Timothy 4:6-8, KJV).
2. “I tell you the truth: everyone who commits sin surrenders his freedom to sin. He is a *slave to sin’s power.* Even a household slave does not live in the home like a member of the family, but a son belongs there forever. So *think of it this way:* if the Son comes to make you free, you will really be free” (John 8:34-36, VOICE).
3. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him” (Luke 15:20, NIV).