



PRAYER & WORSHIP

Suggested Song: Eagles Wings

INTRODUCTION

- If you really need something, can you consider yourself as a very persistent man or are you the type that gives up easily?
- Have you been praying for something to God that have not been answered? For how long have you been praying?
- Did you ever stop praying for it? Why do people stop praying?
- How should we respond when we do not see our prayers answered?

Today we will hear what the Lord's says about being persistent in prayer - through a parable.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

LUKE 18: 1-8 (ASK SOMEONE TO READ LOUD AND CLEAR)

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,
2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.
3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'
4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,
5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"
6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.
7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?
8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"**

DISCUSSION (- GET ANSWERS -)

1. What is a parable?

ANS.:

A "parable" is an illustrative story, by which a familiar idea is cast beside an unfamiliar idea in such a way that the comparison helps people to better understand and grasp the unfamiliar idea.

Jesus Christ always use parables in many of His teaching and to point out people's sin. He painted vivid word pictures to dramatize His teachings so

people can easily understand, visualize and remember.

2. What was the parable about?

ANS.: verse 1

- *People should always pray*
- *People should never give up / lose heart*

The parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge is an illustrative lesson of Jesus Christ used to teach His disciples about prayer.



To understand the need of PERSISTENCE in prayers.
Persistence means not giving up.

3. Who are the characters in this parable?

Describe each.

ANS.: verse 2-3

- **Judge**

-Neither feared God nor cared about man. NOT a fair or righteous judge.

-All he cared about was himself.

- **Widow**

-Typically suffered most from injustice and oppression.

-Distressed due to having adversary who has wronged her. She is seeking justice.

4. What are difficulties the widow is facing?

ANS.:

- The judge was described as "unjust", meaning, his sense of justice is not reliable
- Ignorance of judge with regards to justice
- The judge's sense of justice is ungodly (as he does not fear God)
- She is asking for help from a judge who does not care (he does not regard man)
- Constant requests that is going nowhere at first

5. Did the unjust judge granted her request and helped her? Why?

ANS.: verse 4-5

- Yes, but not immediately
- Judge conceding in, not because of the need of justice, not from sense of right and wrong but **tiredness of hearing the widow.**

**Note: Character and principles of the judge is wholly irrelevant to the meaning of the parable.

6. What was the Lord's message (or point) in this parable?

ANS.: verse 6-7

- If the unjust judge will answer the persistent request, how much more will a righteous God?
- If an unjust judge can be moved by persistent petitions to help a stranger for whom he has no

regard, how much more "will God help his own chosen ones who cry to him day and night!"

- If persistence resulted in justice from this unjust judge, how much more will God, who loves both people and justice, answer our prayers.
- The Lord avenges and gives justice to His people speedily (in time – according to God's perfect time and will)

7. How is God different from the unjust judge?

ANS.:

- God is not an unjust judge
- God has compassion for His people.
- We cannot buy or earn God's favor;
- He gives it to you absolutely free (grace), in His time, and according to His plan or will.

8. How did the Jesus Christ ended the parable?

ANS.: verse 8

- He ended it with a **QUESTION** .

9. What is meaning of that question and what is its importance to us?

ANS.: verse 8

- The last statement of the Lord Jesus Christ is an example of **AN END TIME TEACHING...**
- Jesus promised to return, but the question is: **will there any FAITHFUL PRAYER WARRIORS LEFT HERE ON EARTH – HAVING THE SAME PERSISTENCE AS THE WIDOW?**
- Will we be among God's people continually praying until Christ's second coming?

REFLECTION

- The Lord's instruction is clear – we should ALWAYS PRAY and NEVER GIVE UP.
- We can FULLY COUNT ON the Lord to answer when, where, and how He chooses.
- The delays in prayer are not needed to change God, but to change us. Persistence in prayer transforms us, building into us the character of God.



- God expects BELIEVERS to keep on asking, seeking, knocking, and praying until the answers come.
- Disciples of Jesus are people of persistent faith.

SHARING

(Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Are you praying persistently? If not, why not?
 2. Why do people stop praying? How should we respond when we do not see our prayers answered?
- *Those who do not know God, His will and His Nature will cause someone to lose heart and get tired of praying (especially if prayers are unanswered)*
 - *Know God by reading His Word, by then we get to see that God is **Righteous, True to His Promises, has compassion, and is all-powerful and able to answer our prayers!***