

Pray, people, pray!

Luke 18:1-8

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

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?"

The widow's predicament

➤ She was husbandless and alone

2 "In a certain town

3 And there was a widow in that town

➤ She was wrestling with a harmful adversary

3 my adversary.'

➤ She wanted a higher authority

2 "In a certain town there was a judge

The widow's petition

➤ She petitioned the lazy local judge

2 "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea,

4 He said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men

➤ She pleaded for legal justice

3 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

The widow's persistence

➤ She met unsympathetic responses

4 For some time he refused.

➤ She made unending requests

3 kept coming to him with the plea,

The widow's provision

➤ The judge was annoyed by her aggravation

4 But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me,

➤ The judge answered her appeals

5 I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

The working principles

➤ Note the context of the parable

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said:

➤ Note the contrast and comparison in the parable

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?

➤ Note the conclusion of the parable

8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

➤ Note the concern at the close of the parable

8 However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

1. Do your best to pray in faith according to God's Word and will.
2. Understand that God loves you and wants the best for your life.
3. Hear God's invitation to bring your needs and desires to him in prayer.
4. Realize that God's delays are not necessarily denials, and his timing is not always our timing.
5. Acknowledge that God may answer in ways different from our expectation.
6. Keep praying and don't give up or give in to doubt or discouragement.
7. Remember that God may want to change you more than he wants to change your situation.
8. Be a person of faith and prayer until Jesus comes for you.