

Don't give up praying

Text: Luke 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

18 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 what people thought.
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 what people think,
5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"
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:

Jesus had a special message and lesson to teach his disciples about prayer.

- We should always pray
- We should never quit praying

The Judge Characteristics

As you study this parable, try to see it in its Eastern setting. The “courtroom” was not a fine building but a tent that was moved from place to place as the judge covered his circuit.

The judge, not the law, set the agenda; and he sat regally in the tent, surrounded by his assistants. Anybody could watch the proceedings from the outside, but only those who were approved and accepted could have their cases tried. This usually meant bribing one of the assistants so that he would call the judge’s attention to the case.

The widow had obstacles to overcome.

1. being a woman she, therefore, had little standing before the law. In the Palestinian society of our Lord’s day, women did not go to court.
2. Since she was a widow, she had no husband to stand with her in court.
3. She was poor and could not pay a bribe even if she wanted to. No wonder poor widows did not always get the protection the law was supposed to afford them!
4. She is a stranger unknown to the Judge

The woman had no friend at court to help get her case on the docket. All she could do was walk around outside the tent and make a nuisance of herself as she shouted at the judge.

She has a request and she refuses quit until she is vindicated.

Luke 18:6-8

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?”

Contrast

God is not unjust -

God is *not* like this judge; for God is a loving Father, who is attentive to our every cry, generous in His gifts, concerned about our needs, and ready to answer when we call. The only reason the judge helped the widow was because he was afraid she would “weary” him, which literally means “give me a black eye”—i.e., ruin his reputation

Isaiah 30:18 Amplified

**Therefore the Lord waits [expectantly] and longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.**

For the Lord is a God of justice;

Blessed (happy, fortunate) are all those who long for Him [since He will never fail them].

Lesson(s)

Don't give up praying because God is Just.

Don't give up praying because we are Chosen

Don't give up praying because God answers prayer

Don't give up praying because its a demonstration of our faith in God.