



REIGNITING YOUR PASSION FOR CHRIST

A Study of the Gospel of Luke

PERSISTENT PRAYING LUKE 18:1-8

INTRODUCTION: Thomas Edison observed, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Persistence is the key to success in every area of life -- including our prayer life -- as we will discover today.

I. The Theme Of The Parable (Luke 18:1)

Luke 18:1 “Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.”

II. The Setting Of The Parable (Luke 17:20-37)

Luke 17:20 “Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, ‘The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed;’”

Luke 17:25 “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.”

Luke 17:22 “And He said to the disciples, ‘The days shall come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.’”

Luke 18:8 “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

III. The Parable (Luke 18:2-5)

A. The Unrighteous Judge (Luke 18:2)

Luke 18:2 “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man.”

B. The Helpless Widow (Luke 18:3-4a)

Luke 18:3 “And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’”

Matthew 23:14 “Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows’ houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation.”

Luke 18:4a “And for a while he was unwilling;”

C. The Judge’s Action Toward the Widow (Luke 18:4b-5)

Luke 18:4b-5 ^{4b} “but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.’”

IV. The Application (Luke 18:6-8)

Luke 18:6-8 ⁶ “And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge said; ⁷ now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?’”

A. The Contrasts

1. God and the _____ judge

Matthew 7:9-11 ⁹ “Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he shall ask for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!”

2. The widow and God's _____

Ephesians 2:19 “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household,”

3. The Judge's _____ and God's

Luke 18:7-8 ⁷ “now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

Revelation 6:10 “and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’”

2 Peter 3:8-9 ⁸ “But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

B. The Challenge

Luke 18:8b “However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

1 John 5:14 “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

Conclusion