

Luke 18:1-8 – Persevering Prayer

Main Idea: Christians are to faithfully persevere in prayer while living in a fallen world while we wait for the Lord Jesus to return, and also knowing our Heavenly Father hears our prayers and is able to answer them.

Thy Parable's Point (Luke 18:1, 8)

1. Luke does not want the reader to misunderstand Jesus' message, so he tells what the meaning of the parable is, which is persevering prayer
2. The reason for this parable comes from what Jesus has just told the Pharisees and the Disciples about the coming of the Kingdom of God
3. Since Christ is coming, you need to pray persistently and not lose heart
 - a. Go boldly and confidently to God
 - b. As we wait for Christ, temptations threaten, trials weary, and the times we live in intimidate, therefore we pray
4. What causes a believer to be discouraged?
 - a. Our own sinfulness (indwelling sin, the flesh) (**see Romans 7:25**)
 - b. Others' sinfulness (the world)
 - c. The dishonor of God in the world
5. We pray for the Lord to come again because we are certain He will
 - a. We persevere in prayer because the Lord is coming in power, judgment, and redemption to the glory of God

The Unjust Judge (Luke 18:2, 4b)

1. The judge has no fear of God, nor respect of man – this eliminates any real motive for true justice to be done
 - a. Why do we care about right and wrong? The highest motivation for justice is the fear of the Lord, accountability to God
 - b. God places into the Created order a sense of right and wrong, we know in our consciences what is right and what is wrong
2. The Judge has no shame and this is wicked; he even knows this about himself; he is corrupt, unconcerned, indifferent to justice & God's Law
 - a. The job of the judge is to administer God's Law, but he does not care about God or His Law

The Oppressed Widow (Luke 18:3-5)

1. Widows were to be the object of compassion and care
2. The top of the List in God's system was the poor, the orphan, the widow
3. This widow was supposed to receive top priority from the judge
4. Our Creator serves as the model for what our attitude should be toward widows, and those who are most vulnerable in a society that really cares nothing for true justice (**James 1:27**)
5. God cares for the widow (**Ps 68:5, 146:9, Is 1:17, Ex 22:23-25**)
6. The widow is alone – in this day, she would have been destitute; she has no support, no advocate for her; she is going to the courts alone
7. The widow has an adversary; someone is mistreating her
8. The judge refuses to hear her, but she persistently pesters him until he becomes annoyed and will listen to her and give her what she wants

9. The judge, motivated by comfort, and damnable selfishness gives in because he will "receive a black eye from her" if he doesn't
10. The widow receives the justice she wanted

The God of Justice (Luke 18:7-8a)

1. The Lord Jesus contrasts the unjust judge with our Heavenly Father
 - a. If wicked men can dispense justice with impure motives and reasons less than righteous, how much more the God of Justice?
2. Jesus assumes God's people will long for justice in the world, especially on the return of Jesus Christ
3. Jesus assumes the righteous will pray – "Thy Kingdom Come and Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven"
4. Jesus assumes the children of God will pray – "Even so, come Lord Jesus, quickly"
5. Jesus would have us pray not for the future only, but also the present
6. Will not the God of Justice give His elect what they need? He will, and His motives are pure!
 - a. 1 John 3:3 – God is Pure!
 - b. Leviticus 11:45 – God is Holy!
 - c. Deuteronomy 32:4 – God is perfect without unrighteousness
 - d. Psalm 30:4 – God's eyes are too pure to approve of evil
 - e. Habakkuk 1:3 – No evil dwells in God
 - f. Psalm 5:4 – God is faithful
 - g. Psalm 92:15 – God is righteous
7. Our persistent prayers are not the CAUSE of God answering us, rather prayer is connected to faith; a certainty that God is present & answers
 - a. Those who stop praying are those who stop believing (**James 4:2**)
 - b. God invites you to pester Him with persistent, faithful prayers
 - c. We ask the Lord because we know the Lord is sovereign and able
8. Christians walk by faith, not by sight, in their prayers because God is able to make what seems impossible, possible

Application (Luke 17:34-37)

1. Pray persistently without losing heart when the thing prayed for is not immediately answered; maybe we need to repent for lack of faith
 - a. Be the Widow! Pray to the Lord knowing He is a good Father who delights to give us the desires of our hearts when we delight in Him
 - b. God is a better father than any of us (**Mat 7:11, Jm 1:5, 17, Ps 20:4, 37:4**)
2. Are you able to hear from God the response, "No"?
 - a. Ex: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane prayed fervently for another way to atone for sin besides the Cross – the Father said No and Jesus said, Not My will, but Thine be done; can you be told No?
 - b. Can you trust the All-Wise, All Knowing God's purposes and plans for your life? Can you remain faithful, hearing a "No"?
3. We are the widow, maligned and mistreated in the world – Go to the Judge of Heaven and Earth and lay your grievances before Him to take care of the mistreatment you receive (**Romans 12:19-21**)
4. Be doers of the Word, and Not hearers only – Pray! (**Matthew 7:7-11**)