

NOTES

WARM-UP

- What's one gift you received recently? What did you appreciate about it?
- Do you find it easy or hard to ask people for a favor? Why?
- Share about a time when a parent or guardian gave you something that you asked for. How did you feel?

WORD

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 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?"

LUKE 18:1-8

Jesus uses this parable to teach his disciples never to give up. He shows them the importance of persistence and resilience. He knows that life involves disappointment, loss, injustice, and persecution—all very good reasons to give up and lose hope! But a life attuned to God's presence, justice, and goodness is a life that can endure. What can we learn from this parable?

1 Pray passionately

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The persistent widow is a parable that Jesus tells us about a widow who wants justice. We don't know many details, making the details we do have stand out all the more. We do not know the name of the widow, the name of the judge, or the name of the city.

We can see that a vulnerable woman needs help from a corrupt man. This powerful judge holds the fate of this woman in his hands. We can see how she boldly asked for justice to be granted to her. In life, we need to learn how to claim the blessings and victory that we have received in Christ. We ought to be passionate and not complacent when we face adversities in life. How do we respond when we face hard situations? Do we feel hopeless or are we passionate in seeing God's intervention?

2 Pray patiently

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!'" **LUKE 18:4-5**

We know how this story typically plays out. Powerful people don't tend to give up that power or fight for the vulnerable unless it directly benefits them. The judge in this story does what we would expect. He continues to deny her justice. But she doesn't give up. She keeps coming. Over and over and over again. Eventually, she wears the judge down. He gets so tired of hearing her case that he relents and gives her justice. Eventually, the judge says to himself, "I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!" ([Luke 18:4-5, NLT](#)). We do not always get immediate results when we pray. Our definition of swift justice is not the same as the Lord's definition. What should we do when our prayers have not yet been answered?

3

Pray persistently

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?" **LUKE 18:6-8**

The widow gets the justice she was seeking. Then Jesus explains His point: if an uncaring, unfit, ungodly judge answers with justice in the end, how much more will a loving and holy Father give what is right to His children? The parable of the persistent widow demonstrates that effective prayer requires tenacity and faithfulness. A genuine disciple must learn that prayer never gives up and is based on absolute trust and faith in God. We can fully count on the Lord to answer when, where, and how He chooses. God expects us to keep on asking, seeking, knocking, and praying until the answers come (Matthew 7:7-8).

APPLICATION

- Thank God for being your Father and for His graciousness to you. Pray that you would have a deeper, stronger relationship with Him.
- Ask God to help you pray according to His will. Ask God for His presence, provision, and protection to always be with you.
- Pray for wisdom and courage so that you may be a blessing and encouragement to many this week. Ask God for opportunities to serve and pray for your family and friends.

PRAYER

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