

1. JESUS' MAIN POINT (1) Luke 18:1 *Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

- Jesus gives us the interpretation and application in advance.
- The clear message is: Keep praying—don't quit
- This was a big deal to the early church and to the persecuted church today.
- Why would Jesus teach this before his disciples are even schooled in prayer?
- There are times coming when we will somehow fail:
- By praying we are believing and hanging in there:
- As believers we shy away from effort, not wanting to "earn" God's grace. But, prayer is grace already. Asking (begging) is far from earning.
- Prayer is being response-able to grace and alligning our wills with God's. It is our job description as Image Bearers & Ruling to prayer.
- When we keep praying it's the proof of the pudding—that we believe.
- Jesus is clearly teaching us the importance of our prayers!

2. JESUS' PARABLE (18:2-5) *"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.' Luke 18:4 "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!'"*

- This is classic Jesus' style teaching—he's the king of hyperbole—exageration to make a point (Mat 5:29; 6:3; 7:3; Mar 10:25; Luk 14:26).
- In this case, even though the judge was evil and the worst possible judge we could every imagine. . .
- And even though the Widow—the lowest power in society . . .

- The widow persisted and prevailed
- Jesus' point is—in worst case scenarios and prayer wins

3. GOD WILL ANSWER QUICKLY (18:6-8a) *Luke 18:6 And the "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.*

- If the scum of the earth (unjust judge) eventually answers... (Contrary to the hyperbole, God is not like a wicked, selfish judge).
- Will not a perfect God (wants his goodness (will) to come to earth) answer those who persist in prayer?
- Answer will come quickly. Daniel 9:23, "as soon as you began praying. . ."

4. TRUE FAITH CONTINUES TO PRAY (18:8b) *However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

- Our faith is what is at stake; it is the catalyst the life line.
- Jesus will find faith if we are praying. If we believe we will pray.
- Persistent prayer is the exercise of faith in a good and loving God.
- True faith scans the greatness and goodness of God & matches it with the neediness of humankind.
- God scans our faith.
- The rest of this chapter corrects views of faith:

5. Questions

- Have you ever felt like giving up on God?
- How about now? If faith is measured by prayer on a scale of one to ten where are you in trusting?
- Does this passage encourage you to keep on keeping on?
- Encourage someone today to keep trusting a loving God.