

Parables of Jesus – The Persistent Widow
AM Service Luke 18:1-8 Oct. 9, 2016

Introduction

“persistence” - firm or obstinate continuance in a course of action
in spite of difficulty or opposition

**The Big Idea – God is not reluctant, lazy, or indifferent
to our requests.**

Parables of Jesus - The Persistent Widow

The Principle

“always pray”
“not lose heart”

Three Thoughts

1. If we don't pray, we will faint; it's as simple as that!
2. Prayer needs to be as natural to us as our regular breathing.
3. Prayer is much more than the words of our lips...

The Parable

The Characters and Obstacles

1. A Widow
2. A Judge
3. The widow had four obstacles to overcome.
 - * First, being a woman, she, therefore, had little standing...
 - * Second, since she was a widow, she had no husband to stand...
 - * Third, she was poor and could not pay a bribe...
 - * Last, the judge was corrupt.

The Reluctant, Lazy, Indifferent Judge

The judge finally yields.

“trouble”
“continual coming”

The Contrast

“Hear what the unjust judge said.”
“speedily”

The Question

“will He really find faith”

Two Contrasts

1. The widow contrasted with God's elect (vv. 2–5)

- a. The woman was a stranger, *but we are the children of God...*
- b. The woman had no friend at court...
- c. When we pray, we can open the Word and claim the many promises of God...
- d. The greatest contrast is that the widow came to a court of law, but God's children come to a throne of grace.

2. The judge contrasted with the Father (vv. 6–8)

- a. 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.
- b. How, then, do we explain *delays* in answers to prayer, especially when Jesus said that God would “avenge [give them justice] speedily”? (Luke 18:8)

How about you?

1. Are you ready? The last days will be dark days.

2. Are you persistent in prayer?

**The Big Idea – God is not reluctant, lazy, or indifferent
to our requests.**

“Pray without ceasing.”