

August 25, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Luke 18:1-8 – “Cry to God Day and Night”

- A. Maybe someone has told you that you need to accept, “No” as an answer to your endeavors.
- B. This morning we will look at Christ’s parable about prayer where He taught His disciples **“that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart” (v1).**

You are to cry out to God day and night in prayer.	I. IMITATE THE PERSISTENT WIDOW II. PRAY WITH A PERSISTENT FAITH IN CHRIST
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I. IMITATE THE PERSISTENT WIDOW →**vv1-3**

A. In the USA, we have a plethora of lawyers that one could pursue for legal representation. This widow would not go to anyone else but this unjust judge **“who did not fear God and did not respect man” (v2).**

B. The text does not tell us how many times she **“kept coming to him, saying ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent’”(v2).**

- 1. She **“kept coming to him”** because he repeatedly refused to take her case.
 - a. He did not fear God to care for the need of a widow in accordance with the Scriptures.
 - 1) **Deut 10:18-19** says that God **“executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing, so show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt.”**
 - 2) Applying logic to this verse, we can conclude that because God **“executes justice for the orphan and the widow,”** we are to do likewise as we are given opportunity.
 - b. Since the judge did not respect men, he did not care if the community spoke ill of him because he refused to take this widow’s case.
 - 1) In **v2**, we are told that the judge and the widow lived in the same city.
 - 2) She may have **“kept coming to him”** in various places throughout the city.
- 2. The widow did not take his refusal as an acceptable answer. She kept coming to him until he agreed to take her case.

C. The widow’s continually pleading before him caused the judge to give in to her. →**vv4-5**

- 1. Some may find it peculiar that Jesus would use an unjust judge to be the figure to represent God in this parable.
- 2. This is a logical argument from the lesser to the greater.
 - a. If your persistent appeals pay off when dealing with an unjust judge like this man, how much more will your persistent prayers before your holy God be answered.
 - b. Some may have thought this woman had bad manners and was bothersome because she was persistent to the point of wearing this judge out (**v5**).
 - 1) Maybe you question if you are a bother to God by repeatedly going before His throne of grace for the same matter over and over again.
 - 2) Jesus said His disciples ought to pray at all times— day and night— and not to lose heart. Don’t give up. Don’t be too quick to accept “no” for an answer.
 - a) If you are praying for healing for yourself or a loved one, do not quit when the doctor says it is a terminal diagnosis.
 - b) WCF 5:3 says, **“God, in His ordinary providence, maketh use of means, yet is free to work without, above, and against them, at His pleasure.”**

II. PRAY WITH A PERSISTENT FAITH IN CHRIST →vv6-8

A. The first rhetorical question here in v7 is, **“Will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night?”**

1. Jesus said that persistence in prayer brings about God’s justice for **“His elect”** who cry out to Him day and night.
 - a. This privilege belongs to believers who have put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, asking for the forgiveness of their sins through His precious blood.
 - b. Ultimately, it is through Christ as our great High Priest, that our prayers are made acceptable to the Father.
 - 1) When we pray before Him day and night, we are always to do so in the name of Jesus Christ.
 - 2) The Father accepts prayers in faith that are offered through the intercession of Christ.
2. If you are not sure that you are **“His elect”** yet you desire to be, ask God for saving faith to become His child. **1 Jn 1:9** says, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

B. The privileges we have in God answering our prayers is because of the doctrine of adoption.

1. **Jn 1:12-13** says, **“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”**
2. Because we are His children, He will not **“delay long over”** us (v7). **“He will bring about justice for [us] quickly”** according to v8.

C. Jesus asked another essential question at the end of v8, **“when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”**

1. **Heb 11:6** says, **“Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”**
2. Seek Him with diligence both day and night. You ought to pray in faith through Jesus Christ and not lose heart.
3. When the Son of Man comes or if you go to meet the Son of Man before His return, will He find you exercising faith to pray in accordance with the words of this parable?
 - a. Your faith here is measured by your persistence in prayer.
 - b. Do you give up quickly or do you continually pray to Him without losing heart?

Review, further application, and conclusion: