

Message-based Study

Connection

What is something in your life that takes a lot of patience or time?

Content

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

The parable of the Persistent Widow, tells us to always pray and never give up.

Luke 18:1-8 says, "One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people.

A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'

The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said 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!'"

Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end.

So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night?

Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly!

But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

The Reason

Always Pray: Read 1 Peter 4:7, Colossians 4:2, Mark 14:38, and compare them to Luke 18:1.

1. As we pray, how can we be clear minded and disciplined in our prayers?

Never Give Up: Galatians 6:9 tells us we are going to reap a harvest if we don't give up.

2. When in your life were you close to giving up, and how did you keep preserving?

The Request

In Luke 18:2-3, a widow came with a request before a judge who "neither feared God nor cared for people."

3. In contrast to the judge in this verse, what is our Heavenly Father like? And how can that spur us to do what Philippians 4:6 invites us to do?

The Response

In Luke 18:4-5 the judge declares “this woman is driving me crazy” and decides he will see to the widow receiving justice. Jesus uses this extreme situation to clearly tell us that God listens.

4. As 1 John 5:14 says, “We are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him.” Why is it important for us to know a response is coming as we pray to God?

The Reminder

Luke 18:6-8 tells us that even if an unjust judge rendered a just decision in the end, then surely God will give justice to his chosen people.

5. Luke 18:6-8 and Romans 12:17-19 tells us God will take action on our behalf. What do we need to remember while we wait for God?

Commitment

The Return

The Parable of the Persistent Widow concludes with:

“But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

The word “faith” is used over 240 times in the new testament. How can you define faith based off of this passage, and how can you go about living this way today?



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **eat / engage with another** person in your life who needs to hear of Jesus’ love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?