

The Power of Prayer and Faith!

KJV Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Jesus begins the parable talking about prayer and ends talking about faith!

“Faith dies through lack of prayer.”

Author unknown

“Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow; without faith it will not hit the mark.”

J.C. Ryle

In the parable Jesus uses a widow who has been wronged and is in need of justice.

Understanding **parables** is essential to understanding The Kingdom of God because 35% of what Jesus taught was in parables.

Parables are stories put beside real life to bring out new understanding.

This parable talks about a widow, but the story is about prayer and faith so the parable gives us a greater understanding not about widows but about prayer and faith!

Widows at that time were the weakest and the most neglected in society; because they had no male figure to speak for them they were often poor and taken advantage of.

The church like the widow has no husband physically present to speak for her!

Her only course of action was to appeal to a judge for justice!

Like any other time in history men in powerful positions were prideful, sinful, and selfish and cared very little for the poor.

Nor did he fear God or care what people thought!

But **this widow wanted justice** and she felt the only way to get it was from this judge—she was determined to make him do his job.

Because this widow was persistent this unrighteous judge does his job!

Jesus emphasizes the point, bringing out a powerful revelation:

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

Jesus said “*Pay special attention to what the **unjust judge says.**”*

The judge only responded because this **nobody** was persistent, it had nothing to do with her social status, race or religion!

He didn't respond out of a good heart, good character or based on justice.

Jesus is saying “*If this unjust joker will do the right thing because of the persistence of the lowest in society how much more will God your Heavenly Father respond to your requests for justice if you pray persistently!*”

Jesus is comparing God The Righteous Judge with the unjust judge!

The unjust judge responds out of pressure, the unjust judge responds because he's being agitated, the unjust judge responds not out of love and compassion but out selfishness.

But God The Righteous Judge responds out of love and compassion, because He is a just God, because of His grace and mercy and because of his great love for His children.

Great faith is based on us knowing the great love God has for us!

Gal 5:6b... "Faith works by love."

God answers our prayers not because He pities us, but because He loves us!

KJV Psalm 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

The word pitieth here means “**deep love and compassion**”!

God heard our prayers and saved us because of His great love for us!

God delivered us not because He felt sorry for us, but because of His love for us!

God will heal your body not just because He hates to see you in pain or missing work—but because of His great love for us!

Jesus was also comparing the church with the widow!

The widow is the lowest and least respected in society; she has no clout, no heavy weight connections or any influence in society.

Yet she got up every day and went before the judge and demanded she be given justice.

She was old tired, had limited resources, no doubt aches and pains but she got up daily—so much until the judge knew he was going to be confronted with this widow each day.

The church shouldn't let a weak widow demonstrate more faith in the world's system than we do in God!

But we have a Father in Heaven who is governor of the nations!

He is The Righteous Judge who rewards faith!

We have a God who reigns over all of heaven and earth!

If a little penny widow woman can move the hand of an unjust judge, how much more can a praying church move the hand of God!

If a weak little widow can influence the mind of a wicked judge, how much more can a praying church touch the heart of God!

Jesus said it in verse 7 “*Your Heavenly Father will respond to our cries for justice.*”

God will respond to your **faith filled** cries for healing, deliverance and breakthrough!

God will not ignore our prayers—if we keep praying!

Jesus is comparing this widow's persistence with the prayers of the saints!

Remember where Jesus started! *Luke 18:1 He said men ought always to pray and not lose heart.*

Lastly Jesus says in verse 8 *“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”*

Will Jesus find the church still praying because they are still believing they have a good good Father?

Will He still find persistent saints walking by faith not giving in and giving up because life has gotten too hard?

KJV Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

God still rewards faith and God still answers prayer!

KJV James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.