

**“Never Stop Praying”**  
**Luke 18:1-8**  
**Sunday September 17, 2017**

Jesus presents a parable, which is “A Call To Pray!” To Pray At All Times and Don’t Lose Heart which is needed for the long haul.

**This parable presents contrasts; Like Luke 11:5-8.** The Context of The Parable: Jesus had given a prophetic discourse on the Last Days. **Deception, Destruction** and **Destiny** of those on earth.

**The Thought Of Our Passage:** “Jesus Calls The Believer To Be Persistent And Patient In Prayer Because God Wants To Answer.”

**1. Verse 1 – The Appeal**

**2. Verses 2-5 – The Parable**

**3. Verses 6-8 – The Application**

**1. Verse 1 – The Appeal:**

Luke 18:1

“Now” – The Context is Luke 17:20-37 – Dealing with the question, Luke 17:20 – “when the kingdom of God was coming,”

Luke 17:37

“He was telling them a parable” – A parable was an illustration that was given along side of teaching to force the listeners to make a decision. It was to draw the listener in and, by surprise, they see themselves and God.

Purpose Of The Parable – At All Times We Should Pray: “to show that at all times they ought to (should) pray”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Purpose Of The Parable – Don’t Lose Heart: “and not to lose heart,” – faint; literally “to be filled with bad thoughts.”

Jesus presents 2 options to His disciples living in difficult days – Pray or Faint!

## **2. Verses 2-5 – The Parable:**

Luke 18:2 – “In a certain city there was a judge”

“a judge who did not fear God,” – Godless; If this man was a Jew, he was rebelling against the qualifications of a judge, 2 Chronicles 19:6-7.

“and did not respect man.” – This is the wrong man for this position.

**Here is a godless man that does not respect people that is supposed to be upholding the laws of God.**

Luke 18:3

Jesus uses a “Widow” and a “Judge” to illustrate difficult times, and the obstacles that one could face in the last days!

### **3 Obstacles Facing This Woman:**

#### **1. The Obstacle Of Being a Woman:**

Being a woman she had little standing before the law.

A woman that was a widow, she had no husband to stand with her in court, Exodus 22:22-24.

She was probably poor and could not pay a bribe.

“and she kept coming to him,” – Notice that none of these things deterred her.

Ruth 1:20-21 – “Do not call me Naomi; (“Pleasant”) call me Mara, (“Bitter”)”

#### **2. The Obstacle Of An Adversary:** “saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’”

We have a spiritual adversary, James 4:7.

Psalms 94:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Luke 18:4

#### **3. The Obstacle Of A Judge:** “For a while he was unwilling;” – This parable teaches us to be prepared for the injustices of life.

Luke 18:5 – “yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection,” – “She found him everywhere, on the streets, at his home, at the market place, and when he went to church.”

“lest by continually coming she wear me out.” – which literally means “give me a black eye; poke at my eye!” Get in my face!

**Judge will grant her request, not for fear of God, not for Human-Kindness, but for the sake of Patience.**

### **3. Verses 6-8 – The Application:**

Luke 18:6

**Our Lord is saying, “When you come to God in prayer, do not think of God as this unjust judge!”**

#### **Consider 5 Contrasts Between This Unrighteous Judge And God:**

1. The woman was a stranger, but we are the children of God, and God cares for His children: Luke 11:13.
2. The woman had no access to the judge, but God’s children have an open access into His presence: Hebrews 4:14-16.
3. The woman had no friend in court, but the believer has an Advocate in heaven, the Savior Jesus Christ: 1 John 2:1.
4. The woman had no promises that she could claim; when the believer prays, we can open the Word and claim the many promises of God: Romans 8:26-27.
5. The widow came to a court of law, but God’s children come to a throne of grace: Hebrews 4:14-16.

#### **3 Suggestions how to develop persistence like this widow:**

1. **A Sense Of Duty** – All of life is not filled with pleasures, but rather obligations.

Society and the Church is filled with people that live for pleasure versus obligations!

Believers have a calling from God!

- 2. When Knocked Down, Don't Stay Down** – Develop a form of resiliency, even when life deals you a blow, you get back up charging.

Proverbs 24:16

- 3. Stay Focused On God's Eternal Plan** – The troubles of this world are temporary, but the glory of our Lord and Savior is forever, Romans 8:18.

Luke 18:7 – “now will not God bring about justice for His elect,” – This remark is stated emphatically with a double negative; “God will definitely vindicate his people.”

Justice – “vindication, protection.”

Romans 12:19

What we often miss is God's concern of the persistent prayer for His coming Kingdom. Matthew 6:10 – “Your kingdom come.”

Luke 18:8 – “However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” – The question is in reference to Luke 17:22-37 – “Shall He find [that kind of] faith on the earth?” We need to pray and not quit.

### **Application:**

1. Difficult Days Call For Prayer. If We Don't Pray, We Will Faint And Lose Heart.
2. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Must Have A Sense Of Duty (Be Responsible).
3. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Need Determination That If Knocked Down, We Will Not Stay Down.
4. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Must Stay Focused On God's Eternal Plan: His Kingdom Come!