

THE GOSPEL OF

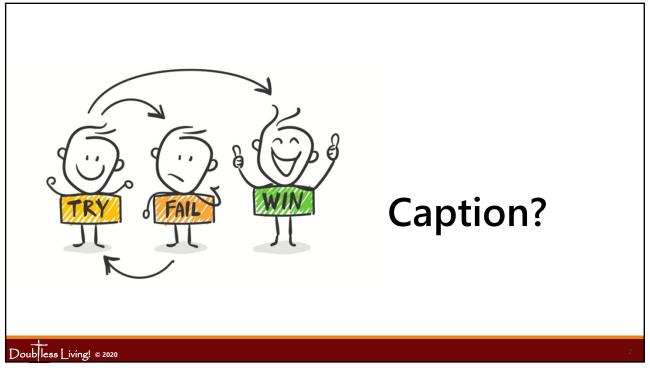
LUKE

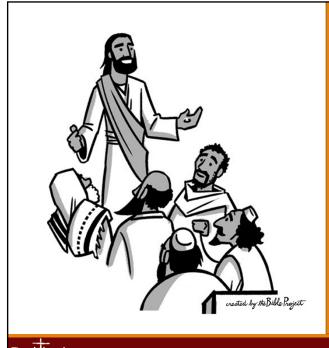
That you may have certainty!

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1





PRAYING

WITH PERSISTENCE

Luke 18:1-8

3

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3

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

- ¹ Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. ² "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people. ³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'
- ⁴ "For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.'"
- ⁶ Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? ⁸ I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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4

Luke 18:1-8

¹ Now he told them a parable **on the need for them to pray always and not give up**. ² "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people.

³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

What point was Jesus trying to make to His disciples with this parable?

1 Thessalonians 5:17

"Pray without ceasing"

5

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PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

John 16:33

"In this life you will have trouble," Jesus said. ¹ Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. ² "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people.

³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

How did Jesus describe the judge in this story?

Why does Jesus warn His disciples about people like this judge?

6

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Luke 18:1-8

How are we like the widow?

¹ Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. ² "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people. ³ And **a widow** in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

Why was the woman in this story especially helpless?

What did the widow need from the judge?

7

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7

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

⁴ "For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.'"

How did the judge respond to the widow?

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Luke 18:1-8

⁴ "For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, ⁵ yet **because this widow keeps pestering me**, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.'"

Why did the judge finally give in to the woman's request?

What was it about the woman that finally won over the judge?

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9

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

⁶ Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? ⁸ I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

What is the point of this rhetorical question from Jesus?

If such an insensitive and unrighteous judge responds to persistent pleas, how much more will a righteous God?

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10

Luke 18:1-8

Context, Context!

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⁶ Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? **Will he delay helping** them? ⁸ I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Why is the 2nd question a bit more challenging?

How do we rightly interpret tough passages like this?

11

11

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

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³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

Go back to verse 1, what is the context of this parable?

What is Jesus telling them not to give up on?

12

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Luke 18:1-8

What type of justice?

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³ And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

⁸ I tell you that **he will swiftly grant them justice**. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

When will this swift vindication occur?

1

13

PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Luke 18:1-8

- Where is Jesus headed?
- What will happen in Jerusalem?
- ➤ What happens the 3rd day after His crucifixion?
- ➤ What happens 40-days after His resurrection?
- ➤ What will His disciples be looking for then?
- How will the world treat them in the interim?

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14

Luke 18:1-8

- So, Jesus taught them [and us] to:
 - Pray without ceasing for His return
 - Never give up hope!
- We pray for justice like the widow, but ultimate <u>vindication will come</u> when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth.
- That vindication will come swiftly, as we learned last week, and it will be visible by everyone on earth.

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15

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Disciples are to look forward to the day when Jesus will return and defend His people by exercising righteous judgment over the whole earth.
- Our blessed hope is not only that we will be with God forever, but that unrighteousness will be judged and removed from the earth for all eternity.
- Until then, Jesus teaches His disciples to walk by faith, pray constantly for His return, and remain watchful!
- Let us be persistent in our prayers, joining the Apostle John in praying; "Come, Lord Jesus!"

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1

16