

“We Must Always Pray and Never Give Up!” 9/24/17

Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Series- “Essential Jesus: The Man, the Mission, the Message”

Big Idea- Since God will decisively and swiftly bring ultimate vindication for His elect (chosen children), how much more will He provide it in our current circumstances? Therefore, we should always pray and not lose heart or get discouraged!

LESSON 1- Our prayer life should be characterized by focused TENACITY

- A. Our tenacity in prayer is rooted in the fact that we are HELPLESS (Ex 22:22-23; Deut 10:17-18; 24:17; 27:19; Job 22:9; Isaiah 1:17)
- B. Our tenacity in seeking help would pay off with an unjust judge (2 Chron 19:4-7; he had no shame, but self-interest in getting rid of her)

Going Deeper *God desires for us to always pray and not lose heart or motivation!*

LESSON 2- Our prayer life should be characterized by trust in God’s CHARACTER

- A. The character of God and our position should give us some BOLDNESS (Heb 4:16; Genesis 18:17-33; 32:24-27; Exodus 32:9-14; Num 14:1-20)
- B. The character of God demonstrates that He responds QUICKLY (Daniel 10; John 5:17; Rom 8:28; James 1:2-12)

Going Deeper *God wants us to embrace His character of a loving Father in prayer!*

Why no response in prayer at times?

- 1) Sin- Isaiah 59:2
- 2) Pray with doubt- James 1:6-7; “Will the Son of Man find faith on earth?”
- 3) Wrong motives- James 4:3
- 4) Wrong request outside of God’s will- 1 John 5:14-15
- 5) We give up- Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-8
- 6) No glory given to God- Isaiah 42:8- we might attribute it to coincidence
- 7) Looking for God to do what we are unwilling to fix- finances/marriage/etc.

Why the Delay in Seeing a Response? (see reverse page)

Always a response (Luke 18:7-8)

- 1) John 5:17
- 2) Daniel 10- took three weeks to get a response
- 3) Could be “no, wait for or something better, or yes.”

Jesus is using *a fortiori* logic here. If it is true in the lesser, it is true in the greater.

Luke 18:1-5

Character	Characteristics	Contrast- GOD IS:
Unjust Judge	Delay- motivated from selfishness; No regard for man nor God, selfish, unreceptive, unapproachable, brusque, grouchy, unwelcoming, unresponsive, grudgingly helps, deems widow not worth the trouble, Answer is motivated out of annoyance/selfishness	Eager, gentle, congenial, caring, approachable, generous, desirous, amenable, responsive, believes we are always worth His attention, Delay- motivated out of giving perfect response. Answer- motivated out of love and concern for His elect
Widow	Woman with NO STATUS in her culture, Bold, tenacious, persistent, unwilling to give up, took advantage of her ONLY option	With God- He does not see us as troubling nor as wearing Him down. We have the ultimate STATUS of being one of God's Elect (Rom 8:31-34)

Elect "chosen" Matt. 22:14; 24:24, 31; Mk. 13:22, 27; Lk. 18:7; John 13:18; 15:16; Rom. 8:33; Rom. 11:7; 1 Cor 1:27, 28; Col. 3:12; 2; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Tim. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:10; Tit. 1:1; 1 Pet. 1:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:6; 1 Pet. 5:13; 2 Jn. 1:1, 13; Rev 17:14

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ it is because you have been chosen for this! It is not by anything you have done or earned (John 1:12-13; 15:16; 6:44; Rom 9:16)

Luke 18:6-8

"Why the delay in response to prayer?"

God answers our prayers according to His plan which brings maximum glory to Himself and blessings to His elect. He does not delay in hearing us, but often His answer is given after a period of time.

Abraham receiving Isaac took almost 25 years (Gen 12-21); Joseph was in prison for almost 3 years (Gen 37-45); David finally received his kingship after 15 years (1 Sam 16- 2 Sam 2).

If God is going to grant His elect ultimate and final vindication speedily, will He not also ask us to wait patiently for Him to give us vindication in the lesser issues of life?