

September 11, 2016—Parables of Jesus

Luke 18:1-8 — The Unjust Judge/The Persistent Widow

“Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

“He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’”

Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for His chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t He stick up for them? I assure you, He will. He will not drag His feet.

But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when He returns?”

“Praying is and always has been hard work in the interim—between God’s promise and its fulfillment, in the life of Israel and in the life of the church living between the first and the second coming of Christ—as is keeping hope in our hopeless world. Praying means hopeful trusting in God, not in ourselves” (Margit Ernst-Habib, 2010).

Next week: *The STORY series begins. Genesis.*

September 11, 2016—Parables of Jesus

Luke 18:1-8 — The Unjust Judge/The Persistent Widow

“Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

“He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’”

Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for His chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t He stick up for them? I assure you, He will. He will not drag His feet.

But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when He returns?”

“Praying is and always has been hard work in the interim—between God’s promise and its fulfillment, in the life of Israel and in the life of the church living between the first and the second coming of Christ—as is keeping hope in our hopeless world. Praying means hopeful trusting in God, not in ourselves” (Margit Ernst-Habib, 2010).

Next week: *The STORY series begins. Genesis.*

No Recourse But One

Jesus told us why this parable was told.

What tempts us to quit praying?

God is completely unlike the unjust judge. How?

What Bible stories demonstrate God's attributes?

Persistence alone isn't enough. Only when persistence is yoked to prayer will transformation take place. Christians are imperfect, humble people who love sacrificially, forgive generously, welcome unconditionally, act irrationally, live gratefully, listen constantly, and pray persistently . . . which enables us, in the face of death, to choose life; and in the face of violence and hatred, to choose peace" (Leonard Sweet).

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like You, Who works for those who wait for Him! Isaiah 64:4

No Recourse But One

Jesus told us why this parable was told.

What tempts us to quit praying?

God is completely unlike the unjust judge. How?

What Bible stories demonstrate God's attributes?

Persistence alone isn't enough. Only when persistence is yoked to prayer will transformation take place. Christians are imperfect, humble people who love sacrificially, forgive generously, welcome unconditionally, act irrationally, live gratefully, listen constantly, and pray persistently . . . which enables us, in the face of death, to choose life; and in the face of violence and hatred, to choose peace" (Leonard Sweet).

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like You, Who works for those who wait for Him! Isaiah 64:4