

## LUKE 18:1-8

“THE PERSISTENT WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE ”

APRIL 6, 2025

### SUMMARY

In this week's Lenten sermon, Pastor Jeff unpacked a hope-filled truth about God's nature that leads us to persevere in prayer to Him. Using a parable, Jesus gives us hope that if even sinful rulers can be cajoled by righteous requests to execute justice and mercy, how much more will our perfect heavenly Father listen to our persistent prayers and deliver us with His mercy?

Jesus tells a parable of a persistent widow who has experienced an injustice. A corrupt judge, who neither honors God nor fears man, will not enforce the law. Despite this further injustice, the widow is undeterred. She persists day and night, petitioning the ruler to act. Eventually, the judge, brought to the point of exhaustion, grants her request to be free of her nagging.

Jesus poses a simple question to drive home what the true King and His kingdom are like: "If this man can be moved to justice, how much more will your perfect Father listen when we persist in prayer?"

However, this doesn't mean that by simply repeating our requests to God, He will grant them. Instead, we align our hearts and requests with God and His justice for the world and trust in his good work in his timing.

As for us, Pastor Jeff wants us to do the following with this text:

- Trust the heart of our Father towards His Children
- Pray with Persistence.
- Align our prayers with the Father's heart of justice for the oppressed and powerless.

Let's dig into this text and let it move us to pray like the widow!



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

## DISCUSSION

### Expand Our Awareness

- What makes persisting in prayer difficult?
- How does your view of God influence your ability to persist in prayer?
- How does the topic of your prayer influence your ability to persist in prayer?

### Extract the Truth

### Read the text: Luke 18:1-8

- What jumps out to you?

Jesus hoped to encourage his listeners to grasp God's character.

- Why is it so important for them to comprehend this?

Parables have a way of cementing themselves into our mind/hearts.

- How was juxtaposing the heart of the Father against a corrupt leader a powerful way to convey God's goodness toward his children?

The widow had no worldly power, simply her heart and hope to persevere.

- What does this reveal about how we should approach the challenges/needs of life? How does this encourage you?

Jesus also wanted them to consider how they should pray – what their prayers should focus on.

- What can we glean from this text about what we should practically pray for and how we should pray?

### Experience Transformation

In order to grow in our prayer life, we need to take stock of where we are and what stands in the way of our growth.

- Without any shame, how has your prayer life been recently, and why?
- What does that reveal about your view of God and His character?

- What is God prompting you to change about your view of Him, and how will that refresh your prayer?
- What is God prompting you to change about what you are praying for and how you should pray for it?
- Is there something you've given up hoping and/or praying for? Why?
- How does this parable challenge or encourage you for that need/desire?
- What is one step you can take this week to renew your persistence in praying to God?

Pray



**PREPARE FOR  
NEXT WEEK:**

LMatthew 13:24-30, 36-43