

Luke 18.1-8

Pray! Don't Lose Heart

Continue Follow Luke's THEMATIC Arrangement – Words/Works Jesus

...it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account Luke 1.3

Thematically Organized Stories, Told at Various Points/Places by Jesus

Ch 17 Kingdom of God > HAS Come and WILL Come

10 Lepers HEALED > 1 Returns THANKS > Healed AND SAVED!

Jesus calls Disciples to PRAY using Three CONTRASTS...

1. Pray! Don't Lose Heart

v. 1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. > Sometimes WE DO Stop Praying, we Lose HEART

Prayer is Hard Work: Tired, Lazy, Indifferent, Rebellious, Discouraged

Sometimes No Emotional Energy / Wonder if Prayer is Pointless

Jesus Knew it is Hard: This Message Keep Going – Do NOT GIVE UP

JESUS PRAYS in GREATEST Hour of TRIAL and ADVERSITY

"Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew...knelt down and prayed
Luke 22.40,41

Many Parables KEY at END > HERE in vs 1 – Key in Lock! > PRAY!

ALWAYS Pray/Pray wOut Ceasing: Should we Constantly Repeat words

“do not heap up empty phrases...think be heard for many words” Mt 6.7

Prayer should be as NATURAL as Breathing > We JUST Do It!

Prayer = Atmosphere which we Constantly LIVE > Desire of HEARTS

LIVE btwn 2 Advents of Jesus / between ALREADY and the NOT YET

Choice > Shall we PRAY or LOSE Heart?...

2. Widow contrasted w God's Elect (2-5)

v. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him...

Luke mentions WIDOWS more than All Other Gospel writers Combined!

Imagine Elderly woman > Ancient World Widow often 30's > Child Bride

Jesus NOT say Disciples LIKE Woman > We are Stark OPPOSITE

Jesus argues from LESSER to Greater > How much MORE! God is Good

Widow is MICROCOSM – Small Sample of Christ's People

a. Woman was Stranger Never told Name, Judge > she Total Nobody

Suzan Der Kirkour Xtian from SYRIA – 60 yrs – Retired School Teacher

Remained in Small Village where Taught to Encourage Children

Even after Islamic Militants took over Village > Arrested Her

Raped Repeatedly / Tortured / Stoned to Death > Suffering took 9 hours

Woman was Stranger > We are CHILDREN of God

Luke 11.13 God cares for Children “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

b. Woman Alone > No Place at the Table of JUSTICE > None w/ HER

Amir Masih, Gardener, Christian > Police Station report theft Home Work

Gave Statement to Clear His Name > Amir Tortured for Confession, Died

Brother who Collected Amir > Saw Policemen Urinated on Dead Body

Luke 17.22 “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it”

Woman Alone – We have Savior – Son of God – Advocate before Father

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2.1,2 (ESV)

c. Woman No Promises Ch 17 – Jesus > Days of NOAH & LOT

Eating – Drinking – Marrying – Buying – Selling – Planting – Building

NO Thought of Lifegiver: Too Busy Enjoying to Full all Gifts of Life

Penniless Victim: WIDOW > had No Chance w/ a JUDGE like This

Woman No Promises > We have Every Promise of Word of God

2 Corinthians 1.21 “all the promises of God find their Yes in Him”

Rom 8.26 “For we do not know what to pray...but Spirit intercedes 4 us”

d. Woman came Corrupt Court v. 2 “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man” Oxymoron ‘UNJUST Judge’

Courtroom NOT Impressive Building > Tent moved from Place to Place

Judge NOT Law set Agenda > Sat in Tent > Surrounded by Assistants

Usually BRIBED an Assistant > Help you Get Attention of JUDGE

Not Drive 11 yrs KZ > Wallet, Docs, Car, Licenses, Big Bill! 20,50,100

Woman came Corrupt Court: God invites us into His Holy Presence

Angels spoke to Powerless Young Virgin: AMAZING News of SON

“...you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...his kingdom will never end” Luke 1.31,33

Jesus TAUGHT Disciples to Pray like HIS MOM:

“Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.” Luke 11.2

Mary: “the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.” Luke 1.49-53

e. Woman wanted Justice > Secure her RIGHTS, Provides Protection

Not KNOW Widow’s Specific NEED > General Request: JUSTICE 4 X’s

VERB vs. 3 “give me justice” / v. 5 “I will give her justice”

NOUN vs. 7 “will not God give justice” v. 8 “he will give justice to them”

Woman wants Justice We come Throne of Grace: based on Justice

If God gives JUSTICE, He must bring VENGEANCE on the ENEMIES

True Divine Justice leads to VENGEANCE > Romans 12.19 “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord’”

Hebrews 4.16 “Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”

f. Woman came in Poverty > No Money, No Funny – Woman STUCK

No HOPE of Getting Corrupt Judge's Attention wOut Gifts, BRIBES

POINT > If FAIL to Pray like Poor Widow > Encouragement to PRAY!

Woman came Poverty > We possess the Riches of Christ

Philippians 4.19 "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus"

3. Judge contrasted w God Father (6-8)

Unjust Judge: should be OXYMORON – Unfortunately NOT UNUSUAL

Perhaps appointed by HEROD or maybe a ROMAN Municipal appointee

Ignores Primary Command of God > Does NOT LOVE God or Neighbor

Jehoshaphat king of Judah...appointed judges in land...told them, "Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery" 2 Chronicles 19.5-7

Jesus NOT saying God NOT Care, Busy, Mean, Unkind, Needs BRIBE!

Judge NOT a PICTURE OF GOD – SHARP CONTRAST – ANTI-God

SHARP Contrast to God's IDEAL of what JUDGE Should BE

a. Judge Not Listening v. 3 And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.

Requests for Magazine Subscriptions sent to people in USA by Computer

Rancher in Powder Bluff, CO rc'd 9,734 separate notices Natl Geographic

Drove 10 Mi Nearest P.O. sent Letter & Check to NG w Note: 'I give up!'

Judge Not Listening > God Hears Prayers even Before we Ask

prophetess, Anna never left temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying
Luke 2.36,37

The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.
1 Timothy 5.5

b. Judge Ignores Widow > Feels like Prayers Bouncing OFF Ceiling

8 yrs Uganda > Bribery, Corruption NORM > Hilo: OJ Trial..Freed? Huh?

50 yrs Xtian Praying angst Abortion! 2024: World 73 million / USA 1 mill

What is JUST about Murder, Charlie Kirk? MLK Jr? Kennedys? Lincoln?

Judge Ignores Widow > On-Time God, gives Justice Speedily

v. 8 “I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily” How Define Speed?

Revelation 22 > Jesus says “I AM COMING SOON” > 2000 yrs ago??

2 Pet 3 “with the Lord one day is as one thousand years. Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise.. but patient to you, not wishing that anyone should perish”

God is often criticized for his timing. In fact, when Jesus asks whether God will delay, it may be tempting to say “yes,” because sometimes God’s justice seems to be so long in coming. Many wrongs will not be righted until the coming of the Son of Man, and as we have seen, there is a long interval between the first and second comings of Christ – long, at least, as it seems to us.

Philip Ryken

c. Judge needed Black Eye to Answer Prayer >

Woman ONE THING going for her > Used it FULLY! > PERSISTENT!

v. 5 “because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”

She met on Way to Town Gate in Morning – Cornered in Market in Day
Goes to his House After Hours – Haunts at Social Occasions > JUMPY

“SHE Wear Out” Greek = “strike in the eye” >> “give a black eye”

LIT. This woman is going to GIVE ME A BLACK EYE / BEAT ME UP!

Children Learn this PERSISTENCE at an EARLY AGE!

Her prayer is continual & persistent, hurling its petitions against long periods of silence...the life of prayer is asking, seeking, knocking, & waiting, trust sometimes fainting, sometimes growing angry. Fred Craddock

Judge needed Black Eye to Answer: God Delights Answer Prayer

v. 7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? >> Answer is YES, OF COURSE!

1979 Moroccan Soldier captured by Separatist Guerrillas > till Nov 2003

Released rushed Home to Marry Fiancée > Waiting for 24 years!

Man Full Confidence in Betrothed > Convinced she Would Wait for him

Utter CERTAINTY on his Part > even tho was AGONIZING DELAY!

Kind of Prayer > Not New Job, Sell House, Child Graduate, Accepted Uni

ALL GOOD THINGS to Pray About!

JUSTICE for Xtians Assailed, Assaulted, Annihilated

PRAYER > God will give JUSTICE to Weary & Beaten Down

Never Give In, Lose Heart, Quit Believing or Praying, Stop Trusting God

God is EVERYTHING the UNJUST Judge is NOT > PRAY Confidently!

God has Purpose in Delay – Do NOT Always know WHAT Purpose IS

BOLDNESS Without BRASHNESS / CONFIDENCE not COCKINESS

“Prayer is asking God for what He has already promised...I besought the Almighty with great vigor. I attacked him with his own weapons, quoting from Scripture all the promises that I could remember, that prayers should be granted, and said that he must grant my prayer, if I was henceforth to put faith in his promises”
Martin Luther

King David after Prophet Nathan told about God’s Eternal Kingdom

"And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever.” 2 Samuel 7.25,26

Great Example: DEMANDING TENACITY of William Wilberforce

"So enormous, so dreadful, so irremediable did the slave trade's wickedness appear that my own mind was completely made up for abolition. Let the consequences be what they would: I from this time determined that I would never rest until I had effected its abolition."
William Wilberforce (24 August 1759 – 29 July 1833)

Elected Parliament 1780: Bill End Slavery passed 3 Days B4 Death 1833

53 Yrs of Struggling for JUSTICE – Severely Opposed, Hated, Mocked

Few 1st C Christians would Imagined FALL of the ROMAN Empire

Few in 20th C expected Sudden Collapse of the IRON CURTAIN

21st C RADICAL Changes of in City of MAN - Nations – Religions

Know w Certainty: City of GOD will ECLIPSE THE City of MAN

Delays not INACTIVITY but Preparation > Always Answers Prayer

Most Direct Application > Pray for God’s Kingdom to Come

People of God get God’s Justice in God’s Perfect Time

Jesus ask Rhetorical Question: Will God’s Elect/Chosen receive Justice?

His elect cry to him day and night, in fact, not because he does not listen, but precisely because he does.
Michael Wilcock

v. 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Faith in Society! Faith in World! Faith in Church >> Faith in YOU!?

"Remember Lot's wife?" > Turned Back, Not Trust, Not have FAITH

Faith > Best of Life is AHEAD of Us – IN Christ – Not BEHIND!

Will Jesus find THE Faith > People Believing in God's TRUTH

"Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done on Earth as in Heaven"

Until you have stood for years knocking at a locked door, your knuckles bleeding, you do not really know what prayer is. Elderly Black Pastor

Cyril of Alexandria, 400 AD "How will not He who loves mercy and hates iniquity, and who always gives a helping hand to those who love him, accept those who draw near to him day and night and avenge them as his elect?"

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come
again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the
Son, who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.