

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:1-8
Sermon Title: Encounters: Keep Praying

Being with Jesus is **spending time with Jesus** alone & with others, from a heart of devotion & towards deeper dedication.

- Take inventory of our **hearts & time**.
- Spend time in **prayer**.
- Spend time through **scripture reading**.

Be with Jesus by living a life of prayer.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
Luke 18:1-8

And he told them **a parable**

The parables of Jesus are not fables told to give a moral lesson, they are stories shared to reveal or explain ideas about Jesus, us, &/or The Kingdom of God.

And he told them a parable **to the effect** that they ought **always to pray** and **not lose heart**.

He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

The widow gives us a powerful model, Jesus gives us the primary motivation.

And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And **will not God** give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night?”

The judge is annoyed by the widow.
God is affectionate towards the vulnerable.

The judge does a good thing for a wrong reason.
God does good things for the right reasons.

The judge is **forced into action** by her action.

God is proactive yet **responsive to our actions**.

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, **then** I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

God is **moved by & moves with** the prayers of His people.

The judge has absolute power with **atrocious character**.

God has absolute power with **astounding character**.

⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who **cry to him day and night**?

The **goodness & righteousness** of God is the primary motivation Jesus gives to His disciples so that they would continue in prayer & not be consumed by despair.

And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“**Father**, hallowed be your name.

Luke 11:2

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;¹² or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!

Luke 11:9-12

And he told them a parable **to the effect** that they ought **always to pray** and **not lose heart**.

Make the primary motivation Jesus gives for continuing in prayer **your primary motivation**.

Accept it:

Accept the motivation Jesus gives as **the best motivation** there is.

Practice it:

Don't wait for an apparent need to activate our prayers, **be proactive**.

Lectio Divina

“P.R.A.Y.”

-Pete Grieg

Pause, (*quietly prepare your heart*)

Read & Reflect (*lectio+ meditatio*), (*slowly read, rejoice, reflect, & repeat*)

Ask (*oratio*), (*turn your reflections into prayer*)

Yield (*contemplatio*) (*enjoy the presence of God*)

Make the scriptures the primary content & your life the primary context of your prayers.

Offer prayers without hedging them.