PARABLES:

Stories for Life

Luke 18:1-8

Today's Big Question: How would persistent praying change our lives and church?

"And he told them a parable to the effect *that they ought always to pray and not lose heart*." Luke 18:1

How much time do you spend during prayer talking versus listening?

"He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'" Luke 18:2-3

The main characters of this parable: A desperate widow and a dispassionate judge

"For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" Luke 18:4-5

We don't know how long this widow persisted, it could have been days, months, or even years

"And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.'" Luke 18:6-8a

If a dispassionate judge will listen and respond to the plea of a desparate widow, how much more will God listen and respond to the prayers of His children?

The tension..."*He will give justice to them speedily.*"
1) The context of this passage, "what is happening around the passage?"
2) God may already be responding in ways you simply don't see
3) We are often quick to ask God to give our adversaries justice while pleading mercy for ourselves

GOD'S PROMISE: God sees our persecution and suffering and will deliver justice to our adversaries if they do not repent and turn to Jesus.

GOD'S TIMING: God's speed and my speed may be very different

How much time have you spent praying that your adversaries would repent and turn to Jesus?

"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'" Luke 18:8b

If Jesus returned today would He find us faithfully contending or sheepishly compromising?

Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find me faithful?