



“Running On Empty Past Empty”

1. READ

Scripture: Luke 18: 1 – 8 New International Version (NIV)

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”



Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Luke 18; Galatian 6:9; 1 Samuel 1; Luke 8 and Matthew 20: 29-34

REFLECT



[\[Click the image\]](#)

This week Pastor Watley continues his sermon series entitled, “Running on Empty” and this week the title is “Running on Empty Past Empty”. Pastor is using as the main scripture for today’s sermon, Luke 18: 1-8. Pastor shares the story of [Doug Lindsay](#) in his introduction. Bro. Lindsay had a severe illness that both his mother and aunt also had before him. The illness was unknown and left him bedridden for 22 hours out of a 24-hour day for 11 years. Bro. Lindsay didn’t quit when no one had an answer to his issue, but instead, he researched and looked for an answer. Once he found out what was wrong, he did not stop there. Pastor shares that Bro. Lindsay then worked to figure out a surgery that would heal him as well as enlist surgeons to perform the surgery. Bro. Lindsay has to take 11 medications per day but, he is enjoying an active life now because as Pastor shares, he was willing to run past empty.



No matter how hard life is or what physical or psychological situation you're facing, if you commit to moving forward, God will see you through. The Pastor also shares a quote from Howard Thurman, "If we want something bad enough, life will get out of the way so that we can have it." Pastor shares that we have to move forward beyond our weariness. It is one thing to be weary in life and the enemy, but it's another thing to be weary with God.

The two points Pastor gives us to combat our weariness are:

- Be fully committed
- Don't quit

Weariness in the face of evil is a real thing. The Pastor shares that we have to know that the Bible is true about the Devil's job - that he comes to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10). However, God comes to give us life and life to the fullest. Pastor shares with us about being consistent. There was a woman in the bible who was consistent and repeatedly going to the judge and because she didn't stop, she received her reward. Pastor says "You keep running on empty when you focus on the destination rather than on the distance." We have to continue running forward and not worry about what is behind us. The Pastor also says "The goal is not to be continuous but to be continual, continual means to repeat regular action."

We have to be willing to trust the process despite how it looks and what others think or say even on empty. We must be fully committed and we must not quit. Pastor closes with reminders of others in the Bible who didn't quit:

- Peninnah (1 Samuel 1)
- The woman with the issue of blood (Luke 8:43-48)
- The Blind men (Matthew 20:29-34)
- And, of course, Jesus

Don't stop running even past empty!!!



1. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï Why do you think the woman continued to seek the judge even?
- ï What do you think she was thinking about as she consistently pursued the judge?

Discussion Questions

- ï When was the last time you were consistently seeking the Lord in the face of hard times?
- ï Where do you go to get refueled when you feel as if you're on empty?