



LIFEWork for the week starting October 17, 2021

## THE PERSISTENT WIDOW - Luke 18:1-8

PRAY - STUDY - SHARE

1. Read the text again and discuss any insights that especially popped up for you from the text or this week's sermon.
2. This week's two words: PERSISTENT & PRAY. Please be vulnerable with each other and share a description of your own prayer life. Regarding your prayer life, what are your weaknesses and what are your strengths?
3. Reread verse 1. In this case Luke (or Jesus Himself) gives the goal of the parable in advance. What is the goal?  
But ... as you go back to Chapter 17, we see here that the subject of the praying and not losing heart is specific. Who is Jesus speaking to? What is the actual topic of prayer that Jesus is referring to? Next week we will hear another parable about the proper attitude of prayer.
4. As we have been learning, parables generally display "comparison" or "contrast". As you look at each of the different elements in this parable, what are they comparing or contrasting?
5. Jesus promises that the true righteous judge will never be late and that true justice is coming. When and how?
6. THE PERSISTENT WIDOW - The widow's persistence in the story is described in particularly forceful terms. The Greek in verse 5 literally means "to beat black and blue, to smite so as to cause bruises and livid spots". We might say she "keeps hammering away" at the judge in her demands for justice. What word or words would we use to describe this trait in a person today? Do we think of this as a positive trait, a negative trait, or something else? Who do you immediately recognize as the victim in this story? When we think of the widow, do we have a generally positive impression, or not? Would you reconsider?
7. Have you ever been in a position similar to the judge? Allow me to reword the question with a famous phrase and then answer again: "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" discuss the positive and negative aspects.
8. Jesus then shifts back to the original topic of the parable; God exercising righteous justice on behalf of believers in a timely fashion. Then Jesus throws a curveball. He connects the "them" (the elect) of verse 8 to a question in the next sentence. In so doing, how is He, as He often does, turning this whole topic on its head?



## The Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8

October 17, 2021 - Pastor D. R. Hilken

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HOW should you pray?  
WHEN should you pray?  
HOW OFTEN should you pray?  
ABOUT WHAT should you pray?

Jesus' answer: KEEP PRAYING

Persistence: Quirky / Bad / HOLY

In this parable: Jesus / Judge / Widow / Adversary

She is standing in a COURT of JUSTICE

You approach a THRONE of GRACE

Matthew 6:9 - *Pray then like this:*

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."*

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.*

The purpose of prayer:

Us: MOVE the hand of God

Him: MOLD the heart of His children

Therefore, you do not need to be ..  
eloquent or lengthy

Therefore, it is helpful to ..  
keep a list & respond to the Spirit's prompting

How Long Lord?

(context - context - context)

Son of Man

Persistence + Patience = Perseverance

Your life + Holy God = JUSTICE