

## LET US PRAY Part 4: Persistence

**Objective:** To encourage us to be persistent in prayer.

**Read together:**

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 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?"*

Luke 18:1-8

- In his parable, Jesus contrasts the corrupt judge to God. What differences can you remember? Take a moment to reflect and then consider, when you come to God in prayer, do you approach him more as a corrupt judge that must be convinced or as a loving father who cares deeply for you? Why?
- John Wesley once said, "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." If we truly believed that our prayers move God into action how would we pray differently?
- Sometimes it feels like God delays his answers to our prayers and it is in these times that we must be persistent. Why is persistence so difficult for us?
- We often want God to change our circumstances, but don't want him to change us. Why do you think we are so afraid to be changed?
- Pastor Steve said, "Sometimes my greatest need is not what I'm asking God for, but rather my need to be changed." Can you think of a time when persistence in prayer didn't bring you the answer you wanted, but it changed your heart in a way that you needed?

**Final Thought:** This week, what are you going to be faithful to pray for? Are you willing to let God change you as you pray so that you get what you truly need, even if it's not exactly what you want?

LET US

