

Jesus & Women
The Widow & the Judge
First Christian Church—May 21, 2017
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My Story – Past failures...

Big Idea – *Our prayer life is evidence of our faith in God.* We can allow our **past** discouragements with God to impact our **present** heart negatively and thus affect our prayer life. How can our heart be strengthened so that our prayer life flourishes?

God's Story – The Widow & the Judge, Luke 18:1-8 "And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." (ESV)

□□□□□□□□: "not lose heart", "not give up"... (Luke 18:1)

The Persistent Hero The hero in this story is a woman!

Man's View / The Judge

Widow (most vulnerable) – v3
Negative Response (rejected) – v4
Bothering/Causes Trouble (Nag) – v5

God's View

The Hero – v1-8
Kept Coming (Strength) – v3
Continual Coming / No end (Persistent) – v5
Faith (Pillar) – v8

*In the middle of harsh hardship, the hero in the story kept pressing on... **waiting on the judge.***

Waiting On God

APPLICATION: Handling the Wait (Continually Cultivating Prayer)

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| 1. Experience the love of Christ! | 2. Believed that God listens to you |
| 3. Be Thankful | 4. Pleasing God involves Faith |
| 5. Nurture Godly Friendships | 6. Be Okay with Not Understanding |
| 7. God Supplies Goodness for those who... | |

One woman's story of persistence in prayer...