

How We Ought to Pray

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Luke 18:1-8

1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2 Saying, "There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me'."

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

- Last week we talked about Mountain Moving Faith
 - If we are praying without believing, why are we praying?
 - Faith that moves the mountains in our lives tells us God is enough
 - However, sometimes we have to get ourselves in a place of compliance or agreement with God
 - There is a difference between vain repetition and persistence

- **Matthew 6:7** “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”
- **“heathen” is a reference to polytheism**
- These use repetitive phrases to incite action from a non-existent deity
- This is also true for any who pray to the One True God, yet do so without knowing Him, expecting that they will do it so well, He **MUST** answer
- Tonight we will look at how we ought to pray, but only according the Christ...

1 And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

- Here the Word gives us the intention of this particular parable
 - Jesus wants us to know that...
 - We should always be praying...pray without ceasing
 - We should not give up
 - Wouldn't it make sense that if we have faith that God will answer that we would continue to ask until we had the answer?
 - Maybe the answer is one we won't know until eternity
 - Maybe the answer we will know next week
 - Maybe the answer is no, but we don't know...what then

2 Saying, “There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

- We have two characters in Christ’s parable
 - The Judge
 - Godless, but fair
 - The Widow
 - No advocate (no husband or son)
 - But she did have an enemy
 - She had a simple request, “Avenge me, I’ve been wronged?”
 - She was persistent...

4 **And he would not for a while:** but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me’.”

- The Widow would not let the injustice go, she persisted the judge to help
- The Judge had no inclination to help her
 - He did not fear what God thought
 - He did not care what man thought
 - He did care for his own well being (she was driving him crazy)
- So after her persistent pleading, he righted the wrong
 - Because it was so important to her, she did not give up

6 And the Lord said, “**Hear what the unjust judge saith.**

- Jesus brings our attention to the words of the godless judge
 - I will larryphrase...
 - Judge: “Even though I could care less about this woman or her enemy and even though I don’t care if God is pleased, I’m going to give her what she wants so I can get what I want...peace & quiet!”
 - Christ’s desire is that we see two things...
 - Pray about what is important to us
 - Caution: Remember, we are here to glorify God...does what you want glorify God?
 - Don’t stop

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

- Christ also wants us to KNOW
 - God hears
 - God cares
 - God answers
- So, how ought we pray?
 - Pray always
 - What is important to you?
 - Souls being saved
 - Lives being changed
 - Needs being met
 - Fruit being seen
 - Love being given
 - God being glorified
 - If what you want doesn’t line up with these...

- Why are you asking for what you're asking for?
- Who are you asking for?
- Don't stop praying
 - God hears
 - God cares
 - God answers
 - What if God hasn't answered yet?
 - Maybe the answer is one we won't know until eternity
 - Maybe the answer we will know tomorrow, next week, or next year
 - Maybe the answer is no, but we don't know...what then
 - Did you bring your shovel?