

POWERFULLY PERSISTENT

Luke 18:1-8 • July 4, 2021

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INTRODUCTION:

A. Review of this "humorous story"...

"There was a judge in a certain city...who neither feared God nor cared about people." – Luke 18:2

"...a godless man with contempt for everyone." – Luke 18:2 (NIV)

"A widow of the city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'" – Luke 18:3

- Widows had absolutely no rights. Widow in Greek means "forsaken or left empty."

"...this woman is driving me crazy. I will make sure gets justice because she is wearing me out with her constant requests." – Luke 18:5

- She was no push over...got in a battle of wills with the judge.

- She was a real nag. Greek for "wearing me out" means "give me a black eye."

B. Jesus is setting us up: Is this how we see God? Is this what we think we must do to "get God's attention and action?" God is eager to answer our prayers!

"So, don't you think God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day and night? I tell you, He will grant justice to them quickly." – Luke 18:6-7

I. POWERFUL PERSISTENT PRAYER BRINGS GOD INTO FOCUS.

A. God is able and willing to act on our behalf.

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:19

Look to the Lord. Go to Him for help. – Psalm 105:4

II. POWERFUL PERSISTENT PRAYER PREPARES US FOR GOD'S PURPOSE.

A. God usually wants to do more than we pray for.

Now all glory to God, who is able through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. – Ephesians 3:20

Look at God's nature:

Sovereign (Psalm 103:19 & Romans 11:33-36)

Eternal (Genesis 1:1 & 1Chronicles 29:10-14)

Omniscient (Isaiah 46:9-10 & Hebrews 4:13)

Omnipresent (Proverbs 15:3 & Isaiah 44:6)

Omnipotent (Job 42:2 & Ephesians 3:20-21)

Look at God's character:

Righteous (Jeremiah 23:6 & Romans 3:21-24)

Just (Romans 2:9-11; 9:14)

Loving (John 3:16; 14:21)

Truthful (John 8:32; 14:6)

B. God often answers in stages.

C. Sometimes God denies a small blessing to give us a bigger one.

D. Even though we might not know why, God says "wait" or "no" and He has a good reason.

- Waiting moves us from obligation to expectation.
- God's delays are not God's denials (Luke 18:8).

E. Faith is the muscle of prayer and it grows by being stretched.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest if we don't give up. – Galatians 6:9

CONCLUSION: