

Title | Let Us Not Lose Heart

Text | Luke 18:1-8

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Sermon Notes

Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying,

"In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.

"There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

"For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.'"

And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

"I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Big Idea:

Luke 18:1 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

- Do you have an accurate view of God? Do you think of our Heavenly Father as the uncaring, disrespectful judge, or as the merciful and caring Father?
- Read Exodus 34:6; Isaiah 49:15; Psalm 103:13; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 6:25-32; Luke 15:11-32.

Tuesday:

Have you gone through difficulty and opposition that have made you give up on prayer?
Have you had a long time of unanswered prayer and are discouraged? Can you share your circumstances with a friend and ask for prayer? Read John 16:23-28.

Wednesday:

- Do you have a prayer plan? (Read Matthew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-4.)
 - Schedule a regular time for prayer. Morning, afternoon, or evening; 3-4 days a week, or every day. Schedule the time formally.
 - Make a prayer list to guide you in your prayers. Use the model prayer given by Jesus, and remember your family, your extended family, your work, your major circumstances, and your health. (Ken Boa's "Handbook to Prayer" is good.)
 - Build prayer into your relationships. Pray for people publicly and privately. Pray with people right after they have shared a need with you.
- Do you have a plan for the regular reading of the Scriptures? Are you applying the Scriptures in your life? If you need a daily reading plan, check out the Bible Reading Plan at https://www.moonvalleybible.org/resources/bible-reading-plan/.

Thursday:

When you pray, do you ask God to bless your efforts, or do you seek to align yourself
His work in your relationships and circumstances? (Read Matthew 6:1-8.)

Friday:

 When God answers prayers in a different way than you had hoped, do you still rejoice in God's care and goodness? (Read Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11.)

Daily Prayer:

Lord, In the midst of my difficulties, I will continue to pray and trust You to fully resolve each area in your perfect timing and way, and I look forward to your return to make all things right. Amen.