

Persist in Prayer

Bob Harper

February 11, 2018

Persist in Prayer

Luke 18.1-8

Key Lessons from this series:

" God answers prayer according to His will, offered in faith by people of forgiveness.

" Prayer is a skill. It's not something we naturally know how to do. We learn it as we practice it and as we learn it our prayer life becomes a conversation.

" God answers prayers but not in the way we expect. He answers prayers as we pray through our circumstances and issues. This means I keep coming back to him and, as I do, my prayer changes. We have a conversation.

" Through prayer God transforms our inner selves and, because of that, in prayer we can pray through the things that plague us like worry, anxiety, shame, guilt, blame, etc.

" Jesus provided an example of intercession.

" Today: persist in prayer. Paul taught believers to persist in prayer (1 Thess. 5.17; Eph. 6.18; Rom. 12.12; Col. 4.2). Jesus did the same but added his own unique touch.

Luke 18.1-8

Verse 1:

" Three questions to ask of every parable:

Who's the audience? The disciples

What's the point? We should pray and not give up.

Who is the God figure? The "unjust" judge.

Verses 2-3:

" We meet two characters: the "unjust" judge and a widow.

" Widows and orphans were the bottom of the social ladder. Widows could not inherit. They often became servants in their husband's family. They might be expected to sleep with their brother in law in the hopes of producing a male heir for their dead husband. They might be sold into slavery to pay off their husband's debts. They could return to

their family of origin if their father repaid the dowry. Widows were desperate.

Verses 4-5:

" The judge cared nothing for God's opinion or that of his peers.

" He decided to help the widow only because her persistence wore him out.

Verses 6-8:

" God is gracious, unlike the judge. We are the objects of His grace and therefore, not desperate like the widow.

" We learn two valuable things:

1. God values perseverance .
(see James 1.4)
2. God answers prayer suddenly .
(see Rom. 16.20)

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18.8b