

4 JESUS USED THIS PARABLE TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES

- A. Although the judge had a wicked heart, he granted the widow's request because of her persistence.
- B. Jesus contrasted the heart of the judge to the compassionate heart of the Father. (Luke 18:7)

5 WE MUST PRAY WITH THE SAME PERSISTENCE FOR OUR LOST LOVED ONES

- A. Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost. (Luke 19:10)
- B. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9)
- C. It is God's will that all would be saved (1 Timothy 2:4)
- D. God wants our prayers to be of a petitionary nature.
- E. God is about to save your friends and family! Get ready!

6 INTRODUCE THE MY FIVE CARDS

- A. Hand out the My Five cards to the congregation.
- B. Have the people pause and write down five individual names of those they commit to pray for everyday.
- C. The My Five prayer card is a book mark that will have a tear-off section so that people can tear the names off and remember to pray for them daily. The bottom section will be given to the Pastor and staff for agreement with the congregation.
- D. Once the My Five card is complete, congregants tear off their section to keep and bring the bottom section to the altar for the entire church to agree in prayer. These can be left at the altar for the pastor and staff to collect and begin to pray.
- E. A good practice is to corporately pray for these individuals to receive salvation for a moment or two every Sunday. The Pastor and congregation can lift them all up in prayer for a moment or two in the Sunday service. This will keep the need for people to get saved fresh on the hearts of the congregation.



PERSISTENT PRAYER IS HIGHLY EFFECTUAL.

- D. Praying with a right heart.
 - i. The widow didn't get offended.
 - a. The synagogue was to care for widows; she was alone.
 - b. Any extended family is not mentioned in the story.
 - c. She could have easily been offended at God.
 - d. She worked through any unforgiveness.
 - ii. This widow didn't play the victim card. You never hear her talk about how hard her situation was and how unjust. She never spoke a defensive word against the Rabbi. She never spoke a derogatory word against the parishioners of the temple.
 - iii. This widow is portrayed differently than other widows in the Bible.
 - a. Widows were usually portrayed as meek and mild.
 - 1. Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead because of his compassion for her (Luke 7:11-17).
 - 2. Ruth is portrayed as a widow with a submissive heart.
 - iv. The widow in our story is bold and confident.



THE POWER OF PETITIONARY PRAYER

- A. This widow is a strong example of petitionary prayer.
 - i. She knew God heard her prayers.
 - ii. She knew God would answer her prayers.
 - iii. She was persistent and did not give up.
 - a. The reason she was so confident and bold—the reason one can see great contrast between her and the other widows—is that she understood the power of petitionary prayer. She understood that when she prayed—God heard her. This infused her with great boldness and faith knowing that God would hear her prayers and answer her cries for help.
 - b. In our present application today, you can come to God knowing that he is going to save every person you are praying for—no matter the obstacle, no matter the strength of their addiction, no matter how entrenched they are in their false religion.
- B. Jacob's encounter with the angel of the Lord is an example of petitionary prayer (Genesis 32:22-31).
 - i. He wrestled with the angel of the Lord all night.
 - ii. Jacob would not let him go until he blessed him.
- C. Hannah praying outside of the temple to have a son is an example of petitionary prayer (1 Samuel 1:9-28).
 - i. She was so engaged in prayer that Eli thought she was drunk.
 - ii. The son she birthed brought revival to Israel's priesthood.

Luke 18:1-6 (NKJV)

18 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, 2 saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor [a]regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, [b]‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will [c]avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ”

6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said.



HOW MANY HAVE LOVED ONES, NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS, OR FRIENDS WHO NEED JESUS FOR WHOM YOU REGULARLY PRAY?

- A. It is important to remember that when we pray for the lost, God hears us.
 - i. You may confidently and boldly pray for the lost. (1 John 5:14-15)
 - ii. You are praying in agreement to God’s will. (2 Peter 3:9)
 - iii. You are to continually pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18:1)



PERSISTENT PRAYER IS HIGHLY EFFECTUAL.

- A. The parable of the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-6).
 - i. We see from verse 1 that Jesus left no ambiguity in this parable unlike he does in many other parables. The disciples do not gather together confused about what he is talking about. They do not have to try to figure out the truths behind what Jesus is saying. Petitionary prayer is so important to Jesus, he lays it out with zero ambiguity, “Jesus taught his disciples to pray and never give up” (Luke 18:1).
- B. The disposition of the unjust judge.
 - i. Israel’s judges were to fear God (2 Chronicles 19:4-7).
 - ii. Twice we are told this judge does not fear God (Luke 18:1-6).
 - iii. Twice we are told he didn’t care about people (Luke 18:1-6).
 - iv. Jesus paints a David vs Goliath scenario which depicts a seemingly impossible case for this woman to receive her due justice.
- C. The situation of the widow.
 - i. She didn’t have a male figure in her life facilitating her legal matters
 - ii. She had nothing to which she could either hire a lawyer or offer a bribe.
 - iii. She was at a great disadvantage as a woman in her culture defending herself.
 - iv. She was utterly alone.
 - v. Have you ever felt that you were praying through an impossible situation and were all alone? Where were the widow’s children? Did she not have a brother? Where was the Rabbi? Where was the family of her deceased spouse? Every advocate or support system this woman could have relied upon either failed her or was not there. Her situation seemed impossible. Maybe some of you feel as though the individuals you have prayed for in the past or present, seem to be impossible situations.