

July 15, 2018



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## The Widow and the Unjust Judge Luke 18:1-8

### Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches us to understand that God desires for us to pray frequently as suggested in the parable of **The Widow and the Unjust Judge**. The **study's aim** is to recognize that every word from the Lord Jesus Christ is of vital importance to our spiritual lives today. The **study's application** is to pray consistently and persistently knowing that God knows us and will act faithfully on our behalf.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### Lesson Introduction and Background

The point of the parable of the widow and the unjust judge is made plain by the Lord in Luke 18:1. It is an exhortation to keep praying in faith. Do we not often give up too soon in prayer? We pray for a while about something, and maybe, if the truth be told, we pray somewhat halfheartedly. Then, when something does not happen immediately, we forget about it and give up. Can that be called faith? The Lord wants us to realize that He is looking for persevering faith in the lives of His people. This is a parable about faithful praying and praying in faith. The parable itself (Luke 18:2-5) has a simple and obvious story line. A widow had a problem, and she petitioned a judge about it. The judge had no place for God in his life and no respect for people. He was rotten to the core. However, he eventually relented in regard to the widow's concern and granted her justice simply because of her persistence. This judge is implicitly contrasted and compared to God, who is a loving and merciful Father. He is not aloof, cold, and uncaring. God is disposed to act on behalf of His children, promising to "avenge his own elect" (Luke 18:7). This judge acted only out of petty frustration. If such a coldhearted judge responded to persistence, how much more will God our loving Father respond to the faithful praying of His children? It is true, as our text indicates, that it often does seem that a long time elapses before God acts on our petitions. He bears "long with" us. Unanswered prayer is often a problem of patience. In delaying, God is developing our faith, challenging us to go deeper, exhorting us to grow more fervent and devoted—just like the widow in the story. This overarching promise of the parable stands: God answers the prayers of His children much more readily than we may think. And after He answers, we agree that He was actually right on time. He comes "speedily." In the life of prayer, we live in this tension of God's willingness to answer prayer, His concern that we come to Him in faith, and His lofty and superior understanding of timing. Prayer can truly be an adventure of faith. And what is it to pray in faith? Our text has a couple of hints. Notice the language of prayer used in this text. First of all, prayer is crying out to God. It is coming from a place of deep need and desire. It is not perfunctory. It is not "easy come, easy go." Prayers of faith cry out to God in deep desperation. True prayer comes when we realize our great need and dependence on God. Notice also that the prayer of faith cries out "day and night." Do we really pray this way? Are we so intent to have something from God that we will not let go of Him, day or night? This does not mean running to God for five minutes and reading our list. It is a deep and urgent action, laying hold of God and not letting go until He responds to us. The Lord calls us to grow toward such faith.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
Failure to pray is the line of least persistence

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
Don't think that you are finished,  
Just trust God's love and care;  
Delays are not denials;  
Persist in faith and prayer. —Jarvis

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
*Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart*  
(Luke 18:1 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", July 12, 2000)*

**Series: Justice in the  
New Testament**

**UNIT: Jesus Calls for Justice  
and Mercy**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Entering God's Kingdom  
(Luke 13:22-30)**

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Pray and Never Give Up (Luke 18:1)**

*Never give up because of God's faithfulness (1)*

Never give up because God never forsakes those who seek Him (Ps 9:10)

Never give up because God will not let us fail (1 Cor 10:13)

Never give up because if we are unfaithful, God will always be faithful (2 Tim 2:13)

Never give up because God cannot lie (Heb 6:13-18)

Never give up because God is faithful and just (1 John 1:9)

### **Results of Persistence (Luke 18:2-6)**

*Knowing that God cares (2)*

We know that God cares for us because we can cast our anxieties on God (1 Peter 5:7)

We know that God cares for us because He promises to be attentive to our prayers (Ps 34:15)

We know that God cares for us because He takes care of all of His creations (Matt 6:26)

We know that God cares for us because God's goodness will not allow anything else (Ps 27:13)

We know that God cares for us because He asks us to come to Him for everything (Phil 4:6)

*Getting justice (3)*

Justice from God who is perfect (Deut 32:4)

Justice that God dispenses every day (Zeph 3:5)

Justice through belief in Jesus (Acts 13:38-39)

God has promised He will bring justice to His chosen ones (Luke 18:7)

God Himself works justice for all the oppressed (Ps 103:6)

*Getting vindication (4-6)*

Vindication because God desires to vindicate His people (Ps 135:14)

Vindication because God will handle the vengeance (Rom 12:17-19)

Vindication because it is God who repays (Deut 32:35)

Vindication because it is God who avenges (Ps 94:1)

Vindication because we are commanded to not repay evil for evil (1 Peter 3:9)

### **Persistent Faith (Luke 18:7-8)**

*Persistence faith is knowing that God is just and always on time (7)*

God is just because He provides revenge and relief (2 Thess 1:6-7)

God is just because He knows how and what to give (Luke 11:13)

God is on time because He does things at the right appointed time (Hab 2:3)

God is just because He is the only one who justifies (Rom 8:33)

God is on time because He is never slow (2 Peter 3:9)

*Persistence faith is having faith in God (8)*

Persistence in faith provides a blessing (Gal 3:9)

Persistence in faith provides answered prayers (Matt 21:21-22)

Persistence in faith is a way of live for the Christian (2 Cor 5:7)

Persistence in faith provides an approach to God with freedom and confidence (Eph 3:12)

Persistence in faith leads to reconciliation (Col 1:22-23)

Persistence in faith provides spiritual strength (Col 2:6-7)

Persistence in faith is commanded for a Christian (1 Tim 6:11-12)

Persistence in faith pleases God (Heb 11:6)