



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Luke 18:1-8

Trust God. Pray and Don't Give Up.

In chapter 11 of Luke's Gospel he records Jesus teaching his disciples to pray what we know as "The Lord's Prayer." Here in chapter 18 he uses a vivid parable to embolden us to always pray and not give up. We know who it is we pray to and what he has done for us and wants to do for us.

Verse 1: A parable is often described as a teaching tool which uses an _____ly story with a _____ly meaning. The Gospel writers record that Jesus used these fairly often in his teaching. Parables often focus us on one main point. Here Jesus plainly tells us the point – We have need to _____ pray and not _____.

Verse 2: What word would you use to describe the judge Jesus pictures for us "not fearing God, didn't care what people thought"?

Would you expect to get justice from such a judge?

Verse 3: Widows can often be taken advantage of. They face the difficulties of life often on their own and no longer with the spouse who may have taken care of certain matters in their household division of duties. This widow seemed to have a legitimate plea for justice. What picture/word comes to mind when you think of a widow pleading her case?

When do you feel like this woman?

Verse 4: The judge was not willing to give her justice...for a time. What things are you waiting for from God or man?

Verse 5: The judge who neither fears God nor cares what man thinks decides to give the woman justice because she'll wear him out, or as the term from boxing indicates "give me a black eye!" The point to

ponder is not whether or not this woman would physically harm this judge, but to focus on her _____ in making her plea.

Verses 6: This is a parable everyone could picture. At some time everyone has had or knows of someone who has had to work hard and keep making a request for justice or that something be granted whether it is child to parent, student to teacher, or in the legal world, etc. It often takes time. It's frustrating. It's difficult for those who wait. This woman received justice not because the judge cared for her or for God, but because of her persistence and his wanting the pleas to stop. Jesus makes his point.

Verse 7: Jesus asks a question and makes four points which feed the one main point of this parable.

First: God is different from the unjust judge. How is he different?

Second: You are not a helpless no-where-to-turn widow but a _____ child of God.

Third: He is with you and he eagerly hears you when you cry out to him _____ or _____.

Fourth: "The Lord is not _____ in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness." 2 Pet. 3:9.

Verse 8: The Lord will give you justice and it will be quickly. Why is that important to trust when it seems like he doesn't hear you or you have to wait what seems to you like a long time?

The world waited thousands of years for God to make good on his promise to send a Savior who would appease God's justice and bring mercy to all. How was God's timing in sending our Savior?

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Jesus asks this question at the end of his parable. The times are difficult, and we labor and struggle under the crosses he has us bear. Like the saints under the throne in Revelation 6 who cry, "How long, O Lord..." we often feel the same. Jesus' parable and promise embolden us to live and struggle under our crosses praying persistently and trusting our Father. What are ways you can pray persistently and trust your Father this week?