

PERSIST IN PRAYER

(Luke 18:1-8)

Last week the Lord blessed us as a church by answering our many prayers for the Harvest Sunday offering. We need to praise His name for the generosity of His people...who “live to give.”

Yet, truth be told, most of us find it hard to pray, let alone to keep on praying until we get God’s answer. There are many reasons for this, and none of them is good. Some of these include:

Our physical weakness...we grow tired. ...Our lazy lack of discipline...we don’t make time to be alone with God
Our callous indifference to a world in need...that should drive us to prayer. Our false sense of independence...we don’t think we need prayer. Our lack of faith in the promises of God. Our outright rebellion. Our lack of follow through...we lose heart.

Jesus knew us well enough to know we would struggle with persistent prayer. So He told a parable telling us that we ought always to pray and not lose heart.

TWO PARTS OF JESUS’ STORY ENCOURAGING US TO PERSIST IN PRAYER...AND NEVER GIVE UP.

I. Jesus Makes Good Use Of A Bad Example. (vv.1-5)

- A. He began by telling the purpose of the parable. (v.1) “Keep praying, don’t give up.”
Usually the point is given at the end, but not here.
- B. Jesus tells of the crooked judge.
 1. This judge lacked two qualities essential for true justice:
He did not fear God, nor did he care about people. (2 Chronicles 19:6-7)
 2. In that day a legal remedy usually involved a bribe...she had nothing to give as a bribe..
 3. This judge is ungracious, unloving, unmerciful, and ungodly. He knew it too! (v.4b)
 4. He did the right thing only when it was to his own self-interest.
- C. Jesus tells of the widow who wanted justice and would not stop fighting until she got it.
 1. Her situation is desperate.
 2. Being a widow she was one of the most vulnerable people in society.
 3. She lacked power. She had only one thing going for her: her persistence.
She was not afraid to use it. She would not take “no” for an answer.
 4. She eventually wore him down. “If we keep asking for something long enough, some-

