

What Your Prayer Life Says About Your Personal Life

Luke 18:1-8

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Introduction

In our text, the Lord teaches a parable that illustrates a way that we should look at prayer. This is one of many sides of a spiritual activity that has great potential for our lives. He sums up his aim in the 1st verse by saying that we should always pray. Now, that sounds good, but, it often falls on deaf ears. Jesus wants to prove to us that there is great wisdom in praying.

Read our text.

Today I want to look at three points from our text. Number one, a **Picture** of one who prays. Secondly, the **Position** we have with God when we pray. Finally, the **Prize** that the Lord will look for when he returns.

Point 1

In our text Jesus brings in a widow. It is his style to take the disadvantaged of his day and make them out to be individuals that we should follow. This was not the normal custom of his contemporaries. Rather than use themselves as “fine” examples, Jesus uses a lowly widow to show us how to pray. What I mean is that widows in Jesus’ day were poor, vulnerable, unconnected and often lived at the mercy of their community.

Relate her actions to the point. Show that in this picture we see a woman that exuded a rich prayer life. The point is that this woman ought to be plastered on our wallets because she was successful...

Point 2

Next, the widow shows us that we must be persistent in our prayers. It is the patient cry of a loving son to a father who has the resources to help. In a sense though the Judge differs very greatly from God. The Judge was fully aware and moved when he was good and ready. Jesus says God moves quickly when his children call. What does this mean? Does this mean that after I’ve gotten up from my knees, the answer to our prayers will be waiting? By quickly we mean with haste. God moves with haste. Most of the time we miss the answer.

For example, we ask the Lord for deliverance from a problem or problematic person. Because we don’t see a magic wand appear and people bending to our will and view of righteousness, we think God has not heard us. We missed the fact that God may very well have raised up people to help you grow through the trial. So the answer to the prayer is the support of the people versus the swaying of people to your view. Praying positions us before God and asks him to take your situation and do with it what he wills.

Point 3

Finally, Jesus ends the parable by asking a question. Will he find faith on earth? What a question? We may have asked, will he find faithful men and women? He doesn't ask that. He says, will he find faith? What's faith?

When we look at our text, we'll see two examples of faith. 1st of the unrighteous Judge, Jesus quotes him as saying that if this woman doesn't leave me alone, she'll wear me out. A better translation is that she will hit me under the eye. In other words dealing with this woman will make me look like I have been in a fight and lost! One of the ways that the Lord will see faith is by seeing how many unrighteous folk will look they have been dealing with the righteous... 2nd, he answered her petition. He gave her legal protection. When we go to God, man is powerless in denying God's people if God so wills it. Will he find faith? Will he find blessed people living in the rich bosom of God's will at the expense of the unrighteous? This faith is the Prize that Jesus will look for when he returns...Back to the title.