

Press

Luke 18:1-8

Sermon Outline

A. The Mindset (vs. 1):

1. Telling – Christ kept explaining this story to the disciples endlessly as if this is something they should never forget. Maybe because of all the trials they would experience (John 16:33). Paul through all his trials instructed us to never stop praying (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
2. Telling – Christ persistence in explaining this story highlights its significance.
3. Parable – Christ decided to explain to His disciple's spiritual truth that can only be understand by those who genuinely seek after wisdom of God. Christ is using a true story to explain a spiritual concept that carnal mind would be unable to comprehend.
4. At all times they Ough – The focus of this lesson is directly designed to continuously teach the disciples that this process is unavoidable and urgently necessary no matter the circumstances. This is continuously the will of God for them.
5. At all times they Ought – This type of prayer is necessary for our success when experiencing hardship.
6. Prayer – To pray is to continuously make oneself repeatedly come to God with ones persistent request to the point that it may cause the person to be prostrate before God.
7. They ought to prayer – The intensity of the trial determines the persistence of our prayer.
8. Faint/lose heart – The prayer is so persistent that Christ has to instruct the disciples to continuously make sure that they do not become discourage, losing the motivation to come back and pray for the same thing over and over again. They must do what it takes to never give up until they accomplish what God promises to do for them.
9. Faint/lose heart – Trials should intensify our prayer does not end it.

B. No Matter the Obstacles (vs. 2-3):

1. Telling – The story that Christ begins to share describes the central purpose of this kind of prayer and what He is saying they must always remember as if Christ never stopped telling this story.
2. Existed – This judge purposefully maintain this attitude with no intent on changing it. He clearly understood who he was steadfastly committed to staying this way.
3. Fear – Absolutely nothing ever caused this judge to continuously become so terrified that he would repeatedly back away from whatever he encountered.

4. God – Even though he clearly understood God’s powerful nature it still did not move him to shrink back or be so terrified that he did not do what he purposed in his heart to do.
5. Did not fear God – Satan or his agents are not intimidated by who God is.
6. Widow – A widow was protected by the Mosaic Law. If anyone harmed a widow, they were expected to receive quick vengeance from God (Ex. 22:22-24; Ps. 146:9). The law provided to her the opportunity to marry the brother of a near relative. She was to be provided for by her oldest son who was given the birthright (1 Timothy 5:9 – in the NT her children were expected to care for us or God saw them as worse than a sinner). She was supposed to be able to go to court without an advocate where she can expect protection and provision. The church was expected to take care of her (Acts 6:1; 2:46).
7. Widow – Christ uses this story about the widow to expose to us how helpless we are when Satan attacks – Job.
8. Existed, was, steadfastly – This widow was endlessly committed steadfastly preserving herself as a widow.
9. Kept coming – The widow was determined to never stop going to meet with the judge.
10. Kept coming – The widow’s helplessness did not stop her from seeking justice.
11. Kept coming – God may allow Satan’s attacks but like Job He does not prevent access to Him.
12. Saying – She continuously said the same thing to the judge. She was repetitively repeating the same information over and over again.
13. Legal protection; Avenge; Punish – The widow understood her rights, so she commanded the judge to execute justice on her behalf. She was in her rights to be vindicated. Her rights provided by the law was all she had in order to be protected.
14. Opponent; Adversary – This justice was to be executed against those who maliciously disseminated false information against leading to the creation of false charges and do so viciously.
15. Give me legal protection – The widow demanded that the Mosaic Law be upheld.
16. Give me legal protection – We must trust God to remain committed to His Word and keep the faith especially since it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18).

C. Be Persistent (vs. 4-5):

1. Said – The judge decided to speak to once make a decision and say something to her attackers.
2. I do not fear or respect – The judge’s decision continuously had nothing to do with reverence or awe for God’s power or holiness or any shame that maybe continuously experienced from what people may say about him. He continuously did not care what people expected of him as a judge.
3. God – The judge clearly understood the expectations of God’s law and how powerful God is but it did not matter to him what God would do if he violated the law.
4. The widow bothers me – The widow’s decision to constantly maintain a continuous presence before him made the judge submit to the law.

5. The widow bothers me – The widow's persistence made the judge physically exhausted to the point of grief.
6. I will give her legal protection; Punish – The judge decided to execute justice in obedience to the law so that the widow's position becomes like a fortress against those who attack her.
7. Widow bothers me – Because the widow knew the law she was bent on never giving up.
8. Widow bothers me – The Word should determine the attitude and determination of our prayer.
9. Widow bothers me – Our faith should direct how we pray.
10. Continually – If the judge does not act the widow's goal of coming to him until he acts will continue. The judge confirms that the widow had no plans to ever stop coming.
11. Come – His coming was the point of her life (the subject here) and therefore it was going to be continuous.
12. Wear me out/exhaust – The judge seems to indicate that the widow was upset and can get to the point that she physically attacks him. "the Greek *hypopiazō* me does literally mean "strike under the eye."
13. Widow bothers me – God rewards faith (Hebrews 11:6). A person of faith is steadfast in their commitment to God.

D. Trust the Lord's Heart (vs. 6-8):

1. Lord – Jesus now speaks as the one who has all authority and power to make what He is saying take place so that God's relationship with believers is powerfully executed.
2. Lord – Luke switches from a storyteller (vs. 1) to a commander and chief.
3. Said – What He is saying to the disciples must not be changed; this is His command to them.
4. Hear – Christ commanded the disciples, once and for all, to pay careful attention to what the judge said so they clearly learn from this lesson how God responds when they remain persistent like the widow.
5. Unrighteous – Christ viewed the judge as having no desire to live up to the standards of God and not even the standards of man.
6. Said – The disciples are to pay close attention to what the unrighteous judge repeatedly said.
7. Now will not God – God's righteousness is being compared to a judge who has no desire to do anything right.
8. Bring about; Do practice – When God brings about justice He has the power to do this independent of anyone or anything.
9. Justice – God is the ultimate power source that will fight for us (Romans 8:31; 1 John 4:4) and avenge any wrong (Romans 12:17-21) that takes place for those who trust Him to hold to His Word like the widow trusted the law.

10. Elect; Chosen – The person's that Christ said God fights for are those who have trusted Christ as their Savior. He will never neglect us especially since He lives in us forever (John 14:16-17) because we are sealed to the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).
11. Cry to Him day and night – God listens to our repeatedly loud calling on Him. Our persistent loud distressful prayers gains His attention.
12. Will He delay long? — Christ is will not hear our suffering and not respond (2 Peter 3:8 – one day is like a thousand years).
13. I tell you – Christ persistently emphasizes how different God is about this.
14. Will bring about – God will take action on His initiative and in His power to get this done.
15. Justice – God is the ultimate power source that will fight for us (Romans 8:31; 1 John 4:4) and avenge any wrong (Romans 12:17-21) that takes place for those trust Him to hold to His Word like the widow trusted the law.
16. Speedily – God said He would hurry to provide us a response until the judge who delayed until he was bothered.
17. He will bring about justice – Christ delay is not His absence it is our test of faith (Deuteronomy 8:2-3).
18. However when the Son of Man Comes – When Christ returns during the rapture.
19. However when the Son of Man Comes – Christ took a long time to come to the Jews. His return seems long again especially as trials grow.
20. Will he find – When Christ returns during the rapture and careful scrutinizes those who are saved (His elect) would there be those who 'stood the test of times.'
21. Will he find – Will His delay expose how faithful we are by the way trials cause us to pray?
22. Faith – Would Christ discover His elect steadfastly committed, fully surrendered to His Word with a deep conviction to trust in the faithfulness of the Lord.
23. Faith – Like the widow our hopelessness in trials should stimulate our faith causing us to persistently pray.
24. Earth – The earth here is simply highlighting Christ return during the time of the rapture from heaven.