

“Prayerful Persistence”

Luke 18:1-8 & 11:5-8

INTRODUCTION: “*So many things to pray about...*”

I. MANY PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH PRAYER

- A. Don't get to it
- B. Frustrated by “unanswered prayer”
- C. Wonder if it makes any difference
- D. Jesus addresses our prayer issues by means of two humorous parables (Luke 11 & 18)

II. PRAYER PARABLE # 1: *The Friend At Midnight* (Luke 11: 5-8)

- A. Picture the typical Palestinian home...
- B. What a midnight disturbance!
- C. Jesus asks: “*Well, what would you have done?*”
- D. Jesus draws us into a comparison with our Heavenly Father...

III. PRAYER PARABLE # 2: *The Dignified Judge & the Pesty Widow* (Luke 18:1-8)

- A. This woman would not give up!
- B. The judge had reason to be scared of her
- C. Jesus asks: “*Well, what would you have done?*”
- D. Again He draws us into a comparison with our Heavenly Father

IV. JESUS ADDRESSES BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

- A. We often find it hard to pray because we picture God as a reluctant neighbor or unjust judge

- B. But the good news is that God reaches out to us in Jesus Christ
- C. We mistakenly think our prayers are not answered
- D. But in these parables Jesus tell us our prayers are answered in God's time & either with - **yes**, **no**, or **not yet** (2 Cor. 12; Rom. 5:1-5)
- E. We are mistaken if we reason that since God already knows what we need, there's no need to pray
- F. But in these parables Jesus tells us that God wants to give us more than an “answer”... He wants to give us Himself (1 Cor. 2:2; Exodus 32)
- G. God **delights** in giving us the gift of Himself (Gen. 3:9; Lk. 15:20; Lk. 19: 5)
- H. And, besides all this, God the Holy Spirit & God the Son pray for us! (Rom. 8:26 & 34)

CONCLUSION: *Enough talk about prayer, let's pray!*

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