

“DOES PRAYER MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?”

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

INTRODUCTION: “*Why pray???*”

I. MANY PEOPLE HAVE PROBLEMS WITH PRAYER

- A. We wonder if it makes any difference
- B. Jesus addresses our prayer issues with two parables

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 Pesky 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 QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER

- A. We often find it hard to pray because we picture God as a reluctant neighbour 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 tells us our prayers are answered in God’s time & either with – *yes, no, or not yet* (2 Corinthians 12; Romans 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” . . . God **delights** in giving us Himself (Genesis 3:9; Luke 15:20)
- G. And, besides all this, God the Holy Spirit & God the Son pray for us! (Romans 8:26 & 34)

CONCLUSION: *Let us pray!*