“Don't Lose Heart When You Pray”

CD No. ______
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**Introduction:** We find in this parable a story about a widow who had a serious problem and she was going to the only one that could work it out.

In **V.1** we have these words- *And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.*

We find the **objective**, *pray.*
We find the **obligation**, *ought* or duty or we could say command.
We find the **obstacle**, *faint* or give up.

The Lord is teaching us something about prayer. He is telling us that we have a duty to pray, and we are not supposed to give up when we have prayed about a problem.
The subject again is, “Don’t Lose Heart When You Pray.”

**I want to mention two major truths from our text:**
1. The Complicated Application About The Widow And The Judge
2. The Contrasting Application About The Widow and The Judge

**I. The Complicated Application About This Parable**

**A. We Find The Widow’s Problem**

**V.3** – *And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

This widow lady had a complicated problem, she had an adversary or enemy that was giving her a problem. On the other hand the only one that could do something about her adversary or enemy was a judge we find in verse two. **V.2** – *Saying, there was a in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man.*
This particular judge that she needed help from didn’t fear or respect God nor did he care about a person who had a problem.

So, we see from the beginning that she had a situation that was almost impossible to solve.

**Speculation**: We are not told much about this widow except her need. We can know a little about her from speculation. Her husband had died and more than likely she was probably left with children, which would have caused her to be up against it finically.

This might be a clue to her problem. Someone might have wanted to repossess her home or land. We don’t really know a whole lot about her; except somebody was trying to do her wrong and that she was in poverty and was helpless to do anything about it.

The only hope she had was in this judge, even though she did not have any money to fatten his pocket book and to cause him to do something about her adversary.

**Question**: Have you ever had a complicated situation that would be almost impossible to solve?

**Question**: Are you there now? Do you find yourself in the predicament that this widow was in now, in the present?

If you do, you need to listen carefully to what the widow done.

We Find The Widows Problem

B. **We Find The Widows Plan**

V.3 again—And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

Her **smart plan** was to go to the only one that could do something about it and ask for help.

If you have a complicated problem in your life, you should go to the only one that can do something about it and that is the Lord.

In Hebrews 4: 16 – The Lord invites us to come, listen: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalms 77:2a - In the day of trouble I sought the Lord

This widow had a smart plan; she went to the only one that could help her.

We Find The Widows Problem
We Find The Widows Plan

C. We Find The Widows Persistence

V.4 - And he would not for awhile: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man.5- yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

We find that this widow wouldn’t give up until the judge gave in, she just kept coming.

Can’t you see her in your imagination? Day after day she was refused by this godless judge that didn’t care about anybody, but self, but she just kept on coming, day in and day out. She was not going to give up.

The Lord who spoke this parable is telling us to not give up, but be persistent in our prayers. If something is important enough to pray about once, it should be important enough to pray about it again, again, and again.

We Find the Widows Problem
We Find the Widows Plan
We Find the Widows Persistence

D. We Find The Widows Pay

V.5 – Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her-
This godless judge who didn’t care about nobody but himself finally gave in and done something about her problem.

This widow was *rewarded* for her *continual asking* this judge to do something about her problem.

The Lord is letting us know from this parable that it will be rewarding for us if we will obey his instructions concerning prayer.

The Complicated Application About This Parable

II. The *Contrasting Application About This Parable*

   A. The **Father Is Different Concerning Our Problems**

The Father is different than the Judge concerning our problems. This parable about the judge and our Lord is not a *comparison*, but a *contrast*.

The Judge showed no compassion or concern about the widow’s plight, but the Lord does care and is compassionate. The Bible says that He is touched with the felling of our infirmities.

The Judge got irritated and mad when the widow kept coming, however our **Heavenly Father** doesn’t get *irritated* or *mad* when we keep on coming to Him in prayer about a problem. In fact He is teaching us in this parable to keep on coming to Him and *talking to him* and *appealing for Him* to do something about our perplexed problem that we might find our self in.

We find a big contrasting difference between this godless, non caring judge and our compassionate, caring Father who is interested in our problems.

Listen to V.7 – *And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bears long with them?*
B. **Our Faith Is Displayed By Our Persistence**

A lot of people stop reading in V.7, but V. 8 goes along with this parable.

**V.8** –*I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, *shall he find faith on the earth.*

This verse is talking about when the Lord comes back for the redeemed.

However, I want us to focus in on the last phrase, *“shall he find faith on the earth?”*

In the Scofield Bible in the notes at the bottom of the page we find these remarks. *This faith pertains to the revealed truth of God’s word in the last day of Apostasy.*

This may be, but I believe that this truth ties in with the verses we just read. I believe it may also be talking about faith in the sense of trusting God.

**Application:** When a person is persistent in their prayer life, especially when they have a complicated problem in their life, it *displays or proves* that they are *still putting their trust in the Lord* to help them with their difficult problem.

**Question:** If the Lord was to come back today would he find you expressing your faith by appealing to the God you trust.

**Problem:** A lot of people teach that if you go back to the Lord after you have talked to Him about your big problem; it is a sign that you do not trust Him.

**However, this is not the truth:** The Lord is teaching us that we display and express our faith *by keep on coming to Him* with our complicated and big problem.
Now, we know that God always answers our prayers based on His will. However, sometimes God does not do anything about our complicated and big problem because we don’t come to Him and ask Him for help.

**James 4: 2b**—*Ye have not, because ye ask not.*

**Conclusion: “Don’t Lose Heart When You Pray”**

I want to ask you a question this morning. Do you have some kind of big, complicated problem that you would love to see get worked out in your life or somebody that you care about this morning?

One might say, I have already prayed about it.

If you say that after hearing this message, you have missed the whole point of this message.

The Lord said that His house is called, “the house of prayer.”

Why don’t you come and lay your problem down on this alter this morning one more time and appeal to the one that can do something about it.