

Message Outline

*Lord, Teach Us to Pray:
The Persistence of Prayer*

Luke 18:1-8

Intro: Two months and ten sermons later...

- Reading Luke 18 with Luke 11 in mind...
- v.1—Jesus point in parable explained out front...
- v.2—A character who doesn't care...
- v.3—A woman in a tough role...
 - Widows in ancient world...voiceless and vulnerable!
 - Persistence: "she kept coming"...
- v.4—Living in the "a while's" of this world...what's happening in the waiting?!!
- v.5—Justice because of the persistence...
- v.6-8a—Jesus is not like the judge (2Tim.4:8)!
 - The point of the parable is prayerful persistence, not God's character!
 - "Speedily" and God's reference to time (cf. 2Pet.3:8ff.).
- v.8b—Beginning parable on prayer (v.1) and ending on faith (v.8)...

A Two-Point Prayer Parable (v.1)

- 1) _____
 - "Always" means constant/continual/all the time (cf. 1Thess.5:17).
 - What does this say about a God who commands constant prayer? Possibly His constant care?!!!
 - Concentrated prayer leads to unconscious prayer!
 - Ceasing to pray leads to unceasing prayer!
 - (illus) Frank Laubach *Practicing His Presence* journal...
- 2) _____
 - "Do not lose heart" is literally "don't faint"...don't lose the oxygen of the Christian life (aka prayer)!
 - Prayer as a white knuckle practice...