

A LIFE OF PRAYER

(01/25/2026; Luke 18:1-14; Jeff Bartholomay; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: Jesus understood the difficulty of the times and the reality of the present age. While confronting the Pharisees for their presumptuous self-righteousness, Jesus urges his disciples to pray persistently and to not lose heart. Therefore, followers of Christ must approach God with humility and pray persistently in order to be found faithful when He returns in glory.

I. Persistence in Prayer – Read Luke 18:1-8

- A. According to verses 1-8, what is the point of Jesus' parable?

- B. What details are we given about the widow? What details are given about the judge?

- C. In what ways should God's people be like the widow? How is God different from the judge?

- D. How is this parable instructive about how we should draw near to God in prayer? How would you assess your prayer life?

II. Humility in Prayer – Read Luke 18:9-14

- A. What are some comparisons and contrasts between the prayers of the Pharisee and the tax collector?

- B. What is the reason the tax collector "justified, rather than the other"?

- C. Read verse 14. How would you interpret this verse?

- D. What is some evidence of gospel humility in our prayer life? In what ways is understanding our sinfulness critical to our pursuit of gospel-driven humility before God in prayer?

- E. How can your Life Group pray for you as you seek to grow in humility in prayer?