

Title: Prayer in the Last Days
Date: May 24, 2015
Scripture: Luke 18:1-8
Speaker: Jeremiah Nichols

Main Idea

Because God is just, fatherly, attentive, wise, and victorious, His people can keep praying and not lose heart while they wait for Christ to make all things right.

Sermon in Brief

Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow to teach His disciples that they should always pray and not lose heart. The widow is desperate and steadfast as she keeps coming to an unjust judge for justice. Jesus then contrasts the unjust judge with our good and faithful God. If even an unrighteous judge eventually gives justice, how much more will God give justice to His elect who cry to Him day and night? In a world of suffering, injustice, and waiting, believers are called to keep praying, keep hoping, and keep longing for the return of Christ.

Main Points:

1. **What Does My Prayer Life Say About My Character?** The persistent widow shows us that prayer should be desperate and steadfast.
2. **What Does My Prayer Life Say About My Theology?** The unjust judge is not a picture of God, but a contrast that reminds us God is just, fatherly, attentive, wise, and victorious.
3. **What Does My Prayer Life Say About My Identity in Christ?** Jesus asks whether He will find faith on earth when He comes, pressing us to examine whether our prayer life reflects genuine dependence on Him.

Key Truths:

- Prayer reveals what we really believe.
- We should pray with desperation and steadfastness.
- God cares about justice more than we do.
- God hears His children AND He is wise in His timing.
- Christ is coming again.

Key Quotes

“How we pray, what we pray for, says a lot about who we are.”

“You do not bother Him like the widow bothered the judge. You honor Him.”

“To fail to pray is not merely to break some religious rule; it’s a failure to treat God as God.”

“Jesus is coming again. That is a certainty. But what will He find you looking like in your prayer life?”

“In these last days, we need to keep on praying and not lose heart.”

Reflect & Respond

What do your recent prayers reveal about what you truly believe?

Are your prayers marked by desperation, or do they sound like you believe you can manage life on your own?

What burden have yoiu stopped bringing to God because the answer has not come quickly?

Are you more likely to treat God as a Father or as a distant judge?

What injustice, sorrow, or burden makes you pray, “Come, Lord Jesus”?

This Week...

Choose one burden you have been tempted to stop praying about. Bring it to God every day this week with honesty, desperation, and faith. As you pray remind yourself: God is just, God is my Father, God hears me, God is wise, and God will make all things right.

Prayer Prompt: Father, teach me to pray and not lose heart. Make me desperate enough to know I need You, steadfast enough to keep coming to You, and hopeful enough to long for Christ’s reeturn. Help me trust that You hear, You care, and You will make all things right. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.