

# Summary

In this sermon, Pastor Jesse explores the parable of the persistent widow from Luke 18:1-8. He explains that Jesus told this parable to encourage His disciples to never give up in prayer and to maintain faith even when God's timing doesn't match our expectations. The parable contrasts an unrighteous judge who eventually grants justice to a persistent widow with God, who is not like the judge but is righteous, caring, and eager to bring justice.

The sermon emphasizes that persistent prayer requires two things: faith that God cares and trust in God's good character. Unlike the unrighteous judge who changed his mind due to persistence, God never changes - He is consistently good, just, and loving. Pastor Jesse concludes with practical advice for prayer: pray without ceasing, pray with confession, chase justice in prayer rather than just asking for things, and always trust in God's unchanging character.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word today, we thank You for the gift of prayer and the privilege of bringing our needs before You. Open our hearts to understand what it means to pray persistently with faith in Your character. Help us to see You not as an unrighteous judge who needs to be worn down, but as a loving Father who cares deeply for us. May our discussion today strengthen our prayer lives and deepen our trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's something you've been persistent about in your life that eventually paid off?

## Key Verses

1. Luke 18:1
2. Luke 18:7-8
3. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
4. Hebrews 4:15
5. Malachi 3:6

## Questions

1. How does Jesus' parable show us what God is NOT like? Why is this distinction important?
2. In what ways have you sometimes treated God like the unrighteous judge in your prayer life?
3. The sermon states that prayer requires faith that God cares and trust in God's good character. How have you seen these elements at work in your own prayer life?
4. Pastor Jesse says, "God was good yesterday, He's good today, and He'll be good tomorrow." How does God's unchanging character affect how we approach Him in prayer?

5. What does it mean to "pray without ceasing" in practical terms? How might this look in your daily life?
6. How does the cross demonstrate God's care for us and His commitment to justice?
7. What's the difference between praying for "things" versus "chasing justice" in our prayers?
8. The sermon concludes with the reminder that God doesn't punish us when we fail to pray or read the Bible. How does this truth affect your relationship with God?

## Life Application

This week, commit to persistent prayer in a specific area of your life where you've been tempted to give up. Each day, spend time not just asking God for what you want, but acknowledging His character and seeking His justice. Keep a prayer journal where you write down not only your requests but also reflections on God's unchanging character and the ways you see Him working. Remember that prayer isn't about wearing God down until He gives you what you want, but about expressing faith that He cares and trusting in His good character even when His timing differs from yours.

## Key Takeaways

1. God is not like the unrighteous judge in the parable - He cares deeply for us, His character never changes, and He will bring complete justice.
2. Persistent prayer is an expression of our faith that God cares and our trust in His good character.
3. Prayer is not about reminding God what we need (He already knows), but about forming us into who He wants us to be.
4. The cross is the ultimate sign of God's care for us and the satisfaction of His justice for sin.
5. We should pray without ceasing, pray with confession, chase justice in our prayers, and always trust in God's character.

## Ending Prayer

Gracious God, thank You for the gift of prayer and the privilege of coming before You with our needs, concerns, and praises. Help us to be persistent in prayer, not because we need to wear You down, but because we trust in Your unchanging character and Your perfect timing. Forgive us for the times we've treated You like an unrighteous judge or given up on prayer when we didn't see immediate results. Strengthen our faith to believe that You care deeply for us and are working all things for our good according to Your perfect will. May we leave this discussion with renewed commitment to pray without ceasing, to confess our weaknesses, to seek Your justice, and to trust completely in Your character. In Jesus' name, amen.