

Praying Versus God's Ultimate Plan: Why Pray?

Luke 18:1-8; Habakkuk 3:17-19

Introduction: Everybody loves to hear a well-worded story. A story has the power to ignite the imagination and to reveal what is hidden. Jesus used simple but profound stories called parables **to reveal and to conceal** God's will and God's ways. *Matthew 13:10-13* shows us the two-fold purpose of Jesus' parables.

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand."

The Main Point of the Parable in *Luke 18:1*

"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."

The Struggle to Pray

1. We tend to misperceive God in **two opposite perspectives**: Deism and Fatalism
2. The Bible teaches that God has given us a free will and that **we have a part to play in God's overall plans for which we are responsible.**

The Story of the Widow and the Unjust Judge *Luke 18:1-8*

The Characters: The Judge and the Widow

1. **The Widow** – Jesus chose the most vulnerable, weak, helpless, and defenceless person of the first century to be the character for his parable.
2. **The Judge** – Jesus chose a first century character who represented the ultimate in a tough, hard bitten, self-centred, devil may care man.
3. **The Case** for the widow looked hopeless because the Judge "*neither feared God nor cared about men.*" (Vs. 2)

4. **The Resourceful Countermeasure:** The resourceful widow found the key to unlock the judge's imprisoned heart: she kept coming to him.

5. **The Dynamic Concept:** The helpless widow discovered the principle of persistence.

6. **The Crucial Contrast:** God is not like a heartless human judge.

The Final Question... *"...However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" (Vs. 8)*

Conclusion: Have you given up on prayer? Have you stopped trusting God for change? Hear Jesus today, He says we should always pray and not give up.