

The Judge of All the Earth

Joseph Carty / General

The Power of Prayer Persistence / Prayer; Perseverance; God's Love / Luke 18:1

Why does God seem to enjoy when we continue to pray for the same thing over and over?
Why does God not give an answer sooner (even if it is no)? Is there a hidden blessing in the experience of persistence in prayer?

Notes

Take a Look at God's Love and God's Persevering Love.

Luke 18:2-8 ESV

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Judge

- What was he like?
 - did not fear God

- did not respect man
- Thought Highly of self
 - loved his power
 - see people beg
- But eventually
 - gets tired of that.

The Widow

- Persistent
 - kept coming
 - kept coming
- Her Plea

“give me justice”

“For a while he refused”

- Eventually,
 - wears him down

- Why?
 - Because she keeps
 - Bothering me
 - Pestering me
 - Troubling me

- Eventually,
 - to save face
 - others don't wonder
 - get rid of her

- Parables
 - symbols

Symbols

- Judge?
- Widow?

Luke 18:6-8 ESV

And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

- Judge = God
 - But not really
- God not like that.
 - sharp contrast
 - again.
- Selfish Judge
 - vindicate her

- to get rid of her
 - No Pitty
 - No Grace
- God opposite
 - infinite compassion
- The judge Opposite

US

- Unfortunately,
 - widow is
 - fitting symbol.
- Widow
 - 1st Century
 - Ancient Near East
 - Bottom

- Socio-economic
- Widows
 - Can't work
 - Can't own land
 - Can't testify in court
- Without man
 - as advocate
 - widow was nothing!
 - No right!
- Like us
 - choosing sin
 - lost connection
 - Son of Man
- In sin
 - separated from God

- We must come
 - with no status
 - no value
 - no right
 - no power
- To Almighty Judge
 - please help
- Yea,
 - we are worse
 - than the widow.
- Because,
 - we are guilty!

Love of God

- Praise the Lord

- Our God is
 - gracious
 - forgiving
 - sympathetic
 - reaches out
 - to save!

Zechariah 2:8 ESV

For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye:

- He cares about us
 - so very much.

In Heavenly Places “The Apple of His Eye”, October 4

The church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard....

Inaccuracies

- God not like Judge

- God is loving
- We are not like Widow
 - We are guilty
 - May not seek God
 - God seeks us!!!

The Adversary

Luke 18:3 ESV

And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

- Adversary = Satan

Revelation 12:10 ESV

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

- Prosecuting Attorney
 - accusing
 - reminding old sin
 - what we did wrong
- Sadly,
 - often right!!!

Last Week

- Prayer
- Neighbor Seeking Bread
- Reason
 - Asking to Give

Today

- Prayer

- Widow and Judge

Why does widow plead?

- Deliverance from Adversary
- Today
 - prayer for deliverance
 - God's mercy

Joshua

- Israel
 - back from Babylon
- Captivity =
 - punishment for sin.

- Zechariah
 - messages of grace
 - forgiveness
 - encouragement
 - protection
 - re-establishment

- Vision - Chapter 3

Zechariah 3:1 *ESV*

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.

- Satan
 - ever ready to accuse
 - often right.

- Accurate record
 - or our wrong doing...

- Almost drive you
 - to despair.

- Accuses God
 - you cannot help
 - they are mine
 - they sinned
 - unfair to help
 - calls found

- His goal
 - to make it seem
 - no more chances
 - gone too far
 - too late
 - lost in sin!

- What happens next?

Zechariah 3:2 ESV

And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?”

- God defends

1 John 2:1–2 ESV

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

- Even when
 - Satan is right,
 - God forgives!
- He is our substitute!
 - grace of God
 - so **UNFAIR**.
- Story Continues

Zechariah 3:3–4 ESV

Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments. And the angel said to those who were standing before him, “Remove the filthy garments from him.” And to him he said, “Behold, I have taken your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments.”

- Satan is right
 - He is filthy
 - (representing Judah)
- God says more,
 - take filthy garments away
 - removes sin
 - Gives pure clothes

Isaiah 61:10 ESV

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

- God longs
 - to cleanse us.
 - to purify us.
 - make us right.
 - give us His righteousness!

Zechariah 3:5 **ESV**

And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD was standing by.

- God is
 - always willing to forgive
 - offer righteousness.
- Conditions
 - Repentance
 - Faith

- Widow
 - plead God
 - forgives.

Christ's Object Lessons Chapter 14—"Shall Not God Avenge His Own?"

Notwithstanding the defects of the people of God, Christ does not turn away from the objects of His care. He has the power to change their raiment. He removes the filthy garments, He places upon the repenting, believing ones His own robe of righteousness, and writes pardon against their names on the records of heaven. He confesses them as His before the heavenly universe. Satan their adversary is shown to be an accuser and deceiver. God will do justice for His own elect.

- In this life
 - continual temptation
 - constant accusation
- Jesus was tempted
- Jesus was accused
 - we are no different.

- In this world
 - don't expect
 - justice
 - fairness
 - life is not fair.
- Judges here
 - not like Christ
 - faulty.
- Social Justice
 - goal to pursue
 - don't be fooled
 - unattainable here.

Matthew 10:24–25 **ESV**

“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

- They abused Jesus
 - They will accuse us.

- This life
 - no peace here.

- Good new?
 - Our Advocate
 - Has Been there!

- He was
 - tempted
 - accused
 - maligned
 - conquered

Hebrews 4:15 ESV

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

What are you going through?

- **He get it!**
- **He has been there!**
- **He understands!**
- **He cares!**

- Because of all that...

- Next verse:

Hebrews 4:16 ESV

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Come to Throne
 - With Confidence!

Broken in Sin?

- Come to Jesus

Oppressed by Accuser?

- Come to Jesus

Weighed Down by the World?

- Come to Jesus

Hurting Today?

- Come to Jesus

Jesus

- Brother
- Friend

- Father
 - Spouse
 - Advocate
 - High Priest
-
- Unlike This World
 - You may be...
 - fed up
 - let down
 - kicked to curb
 - GIVING UP.
-
- You Have A Friend
 - An Advocate
 - A Gracious God
 - In Jesus
-
- **Come to Him!!!!**

