

CONTRAST

The main lesson is NOT that if you will only be persistent in your praying that eventually God will weary and answer your petition.

Contrast #1: God is not like the corrupt judge.

- How I think about God determines how I pray.
- To be more faithful in my prayer life, it's not necessary to change my **PERSISTENCE**, but to change my **PERCEPTION**.

- Jesus revolutionized our view of God to see Him as **FATHER**.

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13 ESV

Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven...'"
Matthew 6:6 ESV

Contrast #2: We are not like the poor widow.

- The widow had three obstacles to overcome:
 - She was a **woman**.
 - She was a **widow**.
 - She was **poor**.

- Unlike the widow, we have **STANDING** before God.
"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19 ESV
"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession..." 1 Peter 2:9a ESV

- Unlike the widow, we have **A FRIEND** with God.
"I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father." John 15:15 MSG
"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Romans 8:26 NIV

- Unlike the widow, we have **ACCESS** to God.
"For through him [Christ] we both have access in one Spirit to the Father." Ephesians 2:18-19 ESV
Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession... Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace." Hebrews 4:14, 16a ESV
"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19 ESV

Welcome to



a community loving God and loving people.

We're So Glad You're Here!

We plan to celebrate Christ's love for seventy-five minutes tonight and we hope you'll sing, pray, laugh and learn along with us. Are you worried about the rules - when to stand, when to sit, what to say? Don't be! We've worked hard to make our time together just like family. So sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're definitely among friends here at Church Requel.

This Week: Widow and Judge

We continue the Modern Parable series with our study of Luke 18:1-8. We'll watch a moving drama about a poor widow who struggles against a corrupt judge. Then we'll learn how different God is from the corrupt judge and also how different we are from the poor widow.

Next Week: The Sower

We'll continue the Modern Parable series with our study of Matthew 13:3-9. We'll watch a documentary about an 80-year-old farmer who grows his crop from planting to harvest. Then we'll examine how well the Word of God is planted in our lives. Invite a friend next week!

Info Card

Would you do us the favor of filling out the green Info Card from top to bottom? We will keep you posted on what's happening at Church Requel. Drop off your card in one of the offering baskets as you exit. Thanks!

White Donation Envelope

We appreciate your worship by giving tithes and offerings to support the ministry of Church Requel. Use the white envelope in your program and drop in one of the offering baskets on your way out.

Prayer Requests and Praises

Do you have something you'd like us to pray about? After our communion time, we'd be happy to pray for your need. Fill out the peach prayer request card and drop it on the communion table.

Communion Tonight

Tonight we will celebrate communion together. We invite you to participate if you are a Christ-follower. You do not need to be a member of our church. Take the bread and cup back to your seat individually when you're ready.

Discouragement Always Around the Corner

Let's dispel the myth that some people just don't get discouraged. You know who I'm talking about, don't you? Some people are just naturally optimistic - always looking on the bright side of things, glass always half full kind of folks. They're always encouraged and never down. Then there's the rest of us for whom discouragement is ever present.

I'm here tonight to tell you that none of us can escape the discouragement demons. All of us get down from time to time. Too much work. Too little sleep. Too much stress. Too little rest. Things don't go the way we wish. Things go wrong. A lot.

What is the formula for encouragement? Rest? Family? Friends? Things going right? Success? Better paychecks? Jesus gave us his answer and it's a surprising one. Prayer. If you want to be encouraged and not discouraged, pray more faithfully. (I can hear some of you now... that's just discouraging!)

Tonight we're going to consider the parable of the widow and judge. We'll learn that there are a lot of differences between God and the judge as well as differences between us and the widow.

I doubt that I say anything brand new to you tonight. We've heard it before. But sometimes we just need to be reminded of how much God loves us, how much He values us, how much He wants to hear from us. My prayer is that you and your prayer life will be encouraged this evening.

It's good to be back with you. Know how much I love you! - Pastor Mark



¹ Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, ² saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. ³ Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' ⁴ And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

⁶ Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. ⁷ And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? ⁸ I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1-8 NKJV

Remember our Parable Primer Interpretation Principle

Look for the main idea Jesus wanted to share

The main idea with the Widow and Judge:

The connection between PRAYING and FAITHFULNESS

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." Luke 18:1 NIV

"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on earth?" Luke 18:8 NKJV

One of Paul's favorite verbs: ἐγκακέω enkakeō become tired, lose heart

- "So we do not lose heart." 2 Corinthians 4:16a ESV
- "As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good." 2 Thess. 3:13 ESV
- "So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory." Ephesians 3:13 ESV
- "Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart." 2 Corinthians 4:1 ESV
- And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 ESV

Potluck Next Sunday

This is the announcement everyone loves to hear. Potluck! Church Requel folks love to visit, love to eat, and love to hang out. Next Sunday we get our chance. Show up here at Ontario Christian Fellowship one hour early at 5PM. Bring at least one dish of any kind to share with your Church Requel friends. The church will provide plates, cups, eating utensils, coffee and water. Everything else is up to pot - luck! So come hungry and ready to share. While you're at it, bring a guest and share the joy!

Children Need Help

We now offer two separate classes one for preschool children and one for elementary children. However, over the last month we've lost two teachers. Could you help - even for just one week out of every six? Our fastest growing demographic is our children! That's the good news. But our dedicated children's workers are now volunteering more than they planned and are missing out on our adult worship services. If you are willing to invest into the lives of our children, please talk to Steve or Jessica or Pastor Mark.