

## What Jesus is looking for

The subject that won't let me go! Was planning on preaching on something else today but God won't get off my case about something! Almost daily I'm challenged, provoked & stirred by the word & Holy Spirit about a certain subject.

### You tube video

#### Luke 18

- o Bad judge
- o Weak widow - epitome of helplessness in O.T
- o Good God - How much more!

God doesn't have to be beaten into submission!

### What's the point of the parable?

= That we should pray always and not give up.

Faint, lose heart, slacken off, despair.

Jesus told this parable because He knew that things would come along to cause us to slacken off!

#### What kind of things?

Cynicism, doubt, delay, worsening situation.

We also face delay because of opposition from the hosts of darkness - **Eph 6:12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens. (NET)

Not limited to prayer but covers all of our Christian life - but sometimes delayed answers to prayer can be directly because of spiritual opposition - **Dan 10:12-13** Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the **first day** that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup>The prince of the kingdom of Persia **withstood me twenty- one days**, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,

What did Daniel do? What does Paul tell us to do? Pray against the devil? No! Just keep on praying, stand, fast, press in - always pray & not give up!

### What is Jesus looking for?

**Luk 18:8** Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find that faith on earth?(HCSB) - **that faith.** What faith? The faith that perseveres in prayer.

Jesus is specifically looking for people who will persevere in prayer & not despair, slacken off or throw in the towel!

See **Ezk 22:30** And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.

**2Ch 16:9** For the eyes of Yahweh roam throughout the earth to show Himself strong for those whose hearts are completely His. (HCSB)

God is looking for those who will press in to knowing Him, being intimate with Him & then from that place of intimacy, crying out to Him in persevering prayer day and night.

God is seeking those who will diligently seek Him.

## Three attitudes to maintain whilst we persevere in prayer

Persevering in prayer isn't easy - that's why Jesus told this parable! He knows how we are formed.

We want instant answers to prayer - **lawnmower story**.

But - it doesn't always happen like that!

When we do have to wait, when we are in a position like that widow, what should we do?

**Psa 13** To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

1 **How long**, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

**How long** will you hide your face from me?

2 **How long** must I take counsel in my soul  
and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

**How long** shall my enemy be exalted over me?

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;  
light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,

4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"  
lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

5 **But** I have trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

See David's circumstance - "**how long**" x4

Read rest of Ps up to v4inc - with feeling.

### *Trust*

**What was he trusting in?** God's steadfast love! Steadfast, enduring, never failing.

God isn't like the bad unjust judge! Just because there is a delay doesn't mean He doesn't love you! What can you trust in when prayers bounce back? When answers aren't coming & God is silent? Trust in the fact that He loves you - lean on that, rely on that fact.

Paul tells us to stand - just keep on standing. Don't turn back. Stand on God's promises. Stand on His word, take your stand on what He has declared.

### *Rejoice*

v5 **My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. my heart shall rejoice and be in high spirits in Your salvation.**  
(AMP)

This is another unalterable unshakeable fact.

Jesus said don't rejoice because you see miracles etc but rejoice that your names are written in Heaven. Yet we so often do the opposite! We get excited over miracles and our great salvation becomes hum-drum!

### *Sing*

v6 **I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

**I will sing to the Lord because He has treated me generously.**(HCSB)

Sing! Let that rejoicing find expression in song! Know and believe that God is lavish & generous - no good thing will He withhold - so if for now He's withholding it it means it isn't good for you at this time.

## Conclusion

Jesus knows the temptations and difficulties we all face when it comes to prayer - that's precisely why He told this parable.

God doesn't just want us to pray but one of the hallmarks of His people is that we cry out to Him day and night.

**This year Jesus is looking - He is searching up and down the earth, looking for people - people who have that persevering persistent faith that expresses itself in prayer - will He find you and me to be one of those people?**