

## **Luke 18:1-8 “Keep on Praying!”**

This teaching about prayer and not losing heart - is connected with what Jesus has just said about his return in chapter 17.

When Jesus returns will he find people who still long for him, who long for the fullness his kingdom? Will he find disciples who are still praying ‘thy kingdom come’?

Jesus knew that his disciples would face in the future many trials and testing that will challenge the genuineness their faith. Jesus understands that this could cause them to loose heart, so he encourages his disciples to pay attention to what the Judge did in this parable.

Jesus is not saying that God is like the bad judge in the parable. The point is that God is much much better! If the this lousy judge secures justice for the persistent widow, we can be certain that our heavenly Father, who is a way better judge, will hear our persistent prayers and make sure that justice comes to those who belong to him!

Prayer helps fuel our hope and our confidence in Jesus no matter what is going on around us. Prayer helps us grow our confidence in his plan and his power instead of relying on our own limitations and weaknesses.

So Jesus is teaching us to pray and keep praying because God is a good Judge who delights in bringing justice and peace to his people who call out to him in faith. Pray because he answers prayer and he is coming again.

### **Questions:**

How does the promise of Jesus’ return shape your prayer life? How would your prayers change if you kept his promised return in mind?

An elderly minister after reading this parable said “Until you have stood for years knocking at a locked door, your knuckles bleeding, you do not really know what prayer is.” What are some prayers that you need to persist in?

How can we persist in prayer together? Call up someone from your church family and offer to pray with them over the phone.