

PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

LUKE 18:1-8 - ERIC SIMPSON - NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Character of the unjust judge = dismissive, callous, distant
vs.

Character of the Father that Jesus reveals = good, generous, wise

wide-gap praying = when the gap between prayers-prayed and prayers-answered

What's God up to in the gap?

➤ **Displaying His wisdom in unanswered prayer**

➤ **Reminding us there's more to prayer than answering requests**

Sometimes God widens the gap to deepen the "be with" part of the relationship.
-- being with God vs. getting things from God

Prayer doesn't just change things around us, it changes us.

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

"Prayer is not begging God to do something for us that he doesn't know about, or begging God to do something for us that he is reluctant to do, or begging God to do something that he hasn't time for. In prayer we persistently, faithfully, trustingly come before God, submitting ourselves to his sovereignty, confident that he is acting, right now, on our behalf...working his will in our life and circumstances. So keep praying. Don't quit." - Eugene Peterson

Give this a try...

- Kneel in silence for 2 minutes (take some deep breaths, settle into the quiet).
- Read the Scripture (*Ps. 27: 1, 4-5, 11, 13*) out-loud, slowly, pausing for a few seconds after each section, let the words sink in.
- Read back through it a 2nd time, pausing at each section and seeing if God prompts you to pray about anything specific in light of what you've just read. Take the time and pray about it right then, don't rush, talk it through in your own words.

Wrap it up with this - "Lord Jesus, thank you for your great love. Thank you for giving up your life that I might find life in you. Thank you for your patience, how you never give up on me. Teach me how to be a man of prayer. Open my eyes to see all the ways you are at work around me today. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."