

Parables of Prayer

Luke 18:1-14

by Don Falkos

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Jesus told his followers a story to illustrate why they should be persistent in their prayers and not give up:

There was once a judge who didn't believe in God and who didn't care about people. In the same town there was a widow who kept coming to the judge saying, "My rights are being violated. You need to protect me."

At first the judge ignored her, didn't do anything to help. But the widow was persistent. Eventually the judge decided, "I'm going to have to do something to see this widow gets what she wants. Otherwise, she's going to drive me crazy."

"Now I ask you, how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he comes back?"

Jesus told a story to some people who thought they were better than everyone else:

Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee; the other a tax collector. The Pharisee strode right up to the front, struck a pose, and prayed about himself. "Oh God, I thank you that I am not like other people – greedy, dishonest, impure, and certainly I'm not like that tax collector over there. I fast twice a week. And I give away a tenth of all I earn."

Meanwhile, the tax collector was standing off in a dark corner with his head in his hands. He didn't even consider himself worthy to look up toward heaven. He became very emotional and prayed, "Oh, God, I am such a sinner. Please, forgive me."

"I tell you, when those two men went home that day, it was the tax collector, not the Pharisee, who had God's approval. If you attempt to honor yourself, you will be humbled. But if you humble yourself, you will be honored."