

Introduction:

- Luke 18:1-8
- Grandmother Cha Sa-Soon lived alone in a remote mountain village in South Korea. She always wanted to learn to drive but didn't try to get a license until she was in her 60's. She failed the written part of the driving test, not once, twice, or 10 times, but 949 times. Having never driven, a lot of the test terminology was new to her, but she refused to quit. Finally, on her 950th try, she got a passing grade. On the actual "road test" she only failed 4 times before getting passing marks. By this time, all of Korea knew about her persistence. Her triumph was celebrated and she became a national hero. She was even given a Kia Soul and appeared in one of their commercials. All because of she wouldn't give up. NYTimes Sept 3, 2010. APPLICATION: Who besides Grandmother Cha Sa-Soon has ever had to take a driving test 950 times before passing it? And who, besides Grandmother Cha Sa-Soon, has ever become a national hero for passing the written part of a driving test? Her key? She never gave up. She refused to quit.
- Following in the footsteps of Jesus one cannot help but learn how to pray! And, pray relentlessly.
 - Prayer was a central part of Jesus life. It was an expression of His relationship with the Father. (Luke 6:12 all night) (Mark 1:35 early morning) (Mt 14:23 after work) *"While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God."* (Hebrews 5:7, NLT)
 - The disciples watched him pray: early morning, late night, all through the night, long before daylight, and in-between, after great achievements and when He was weary.
 - So they said to Him, "Teach us to pray." Luke 11:1. Not teach us how to pray. Teach us to pray. And Jesus answers their request: Models prayer, Lords prayer, And our passage this morning. You can teach someone how to pray but most prayer is caught and not just taught.

I. The Mandate To Pray

- A. In Luke 18:1 Jesus gives the command or mandate to pray. *"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."* (Luke 18:1, ESV)
1. The Greek deon esti: deon - it must be, esti - it is necessary. It brings the element of necessity. IE. As in math 2+2=4. It cannot be anything but that.
 2. *...men ought always pray.* This is a necessity. It can not be another way. You must pray and not lose heart. It is of necessity. 'Always praying' is a mandate.
 3. 1 Thes 5:17 Paul exhort the Thessalonians to *"Never stop praying!"*
 4. The verb form of the word pray, *proseúchesthai* "refers to calling on God." Kittel, G.,

Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 284). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.

- B. Never give up.
1. The verb form used here means 'to cease, or to stop' Ekkakein-To become discouraged and cease.
 - a) 2 Co 4:1 Paul will not let any difficulties cause him to fail or grow weary
 - b) Eph 3:13, Paul asks his readers not to be discouraged over his present circumstance.
 - c) 2Th 3:13 & Gal 6:9 Do not grow weary in doing good.
 2. Jesus is saying: Do not let external pressure take you out of the place of prayer. It is critical that you keep faith alive and the greatest expression of your faith will be in your prayer life!
- C. What does it mean to have a spirit of unceasing prayer/always praying. What does this look like?
1. To pray without ceasing demonstrates a 'spirit of dependence' on Christ.
 2. Always praying means that this is a repeated action in your life. IE. Romans 1:9 *"God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God."* (NLT) Not necessarily every moment but consistently regular through out ones day.
 3. To always pray means that you are not giving up. IE. Manchester 1986-2004, 18 years of praying!
 4. To always pray means there is discipline in prayer as well as spontaneity.
- D. The widow has little hope of finding justice. (widow, female, no family, enemies.) You might even say of her "She hasn't got a prayer!" The issue is will you continue to pray in the face of adversity?
1. Plain and simple, Jesus told this parable to encourage his disciples to persevere in prayer. So perseverance is the key.
 2. That is how the widow inspires us. She continued asking, over and over again, in accordance with what she thought was right because she knew that the right thing would eventually happen.

II. The Motivation To Pray What would motivate a person to always pray?

- A. The desire for justice. This is what stands central to this portion of scripture.
1. The Kingdom is not always visible through external signs but it is here. 17:20-21
 2. 17:20-37 is end time centered and we see in it external pressures and internal pressures (business as usual) that was causing people to cease to pray.
 3. You pray for justice when life is unfair, hard, and you need a breakthrough.
 4. IE. Transformation in Manchester KY. 200 years of bondage, poorest county in the nation (65% of people on welfare) prescription drug capital of nation, average

pastoral stay less than 5 years. *"A warrior filled with wisdom ascends into the high place and releases regional breakthrough bringing down the strongholds of the mighty."* Prov. 21:22 TPT

5. Is 35:4 *"Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.""* (Isaiah 35:4, ESV)
- B. Knowing that God is good! The comparison is made to an unjust judge. This guy does not fear God and does not care about people. He has broke the two great commands. Yet he gives the woman justice. If an unjust judge is able to do this how much more our loving, kind, victorious God will bring justice. Effectual praying begins with knowing the Father's desires!
1. Luke 11:13 He gives good gifts to those who ask.
 2. Luke 12:32 The Father takes great delight in giving us the Kingdom
 3. Luke 15:20 The Father runs to the prodigal son to welcome him home.
- C. God will surely grant justice to his chosen people who cry out to him. Chosen comes from the word *eklektós*, which may carry such meanings as "choice," "desirable," "costly," etc Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 515). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
1. Jesus argues, if an unjust judge can be moved by persistent petitions to help a stranger that he cares nothing about, how much more *"will God help his own chosen ones who cry to him day and night!"*
 2. So this parable is intended to be an encouragement for us to pray continually until Jesus comes back.

III. God Means For Us To Pray

- A. We find prayer all through the Bible. When we see it in action we see the most intimate of relationships with God being revealed. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, Jesus, John the Apostle.
1. So are we going to follow our renewed spirit and do the will of the Father or are we going to let our flesh dictate whether we will pray or not?
 2. Solomon prayed and God gave him wisdom, made him the wisest man on earth.
 3. Hezekiah prayed and God added 15 years to his life.
 4. Elijah prayed that it wouldn't rain for 3 1/2 years, that's 1,095 days and guess what?—It didn't!
 5. Jabez prayed for more territory and what did God do? He said ok and He granted him what he asked for!
 6. One thing they all had in common; they didn't just say a prayer...they prayed!
- B. PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE... FERVENT... POWERFUL...

1. Effectual: to produce the desired effect, fruitful, potent, ready, sure, concrete
 2. Fervent: glowing hot, great intensity, emotional, passionate
 3. Powerful: great influence, potent, strong, great force, to achieve.
- C. God means for us to be people of prayer. Watch how faith and prayer go together.
1. Jesus asks in vs 8 "*Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?*" (Luke 18:8, ESV)
 2. What He means is this: "*Will the Son of man find that his disciples have kept praying, or have lost heart and given up?*"
 3. The implication of the question seems to be: Prayer and faith stand and fall together. *If we lose heart and drift away from prayer, then the Son of man will not find faith in us when he comes.*
 4. If you lose heart and lay down your prayer life, the fire will go out, you will grow cold and hard, and when the lightning flashes from sky to sky and the Son of man appears in glory, he will spew you out of his mouth (Rev 3:16).
- D. Let our commitment be: to always be praying.
1. Ask - you are in the presence of God.
 2. Seek - look for God in your situation.
 3. Knock- means a door is closed that needs to be opened to you.
 4. Faith is required in all.

Conclusion:

- When you don't think you have a prayer... pray!!!
- When you don't think you God is there...pray!!!
- When you think you have been forgotten pray!!!
- Do not lose heart/faith!!!