

Applying Pressure through Prayer  
Luke 18:1-8

**FOR OUR CONSIDERATION:**

- Jesus, the Master Teacher uses his tool of choice in communicating eternal truths to people: **The Parable**.
  - Parables use the EVERYDAY to describe what is ESSENTIAL and/or ETERNAL.
- Whenever you read a parable and see the word “*certain*”, you should know that this always leaves room for the following:
  - Contemporary Example (message finds parallels within the present age)
  - Personal Application (we can see ourselves and others in the characters and narrative at large)
- There was a judge who didn’t fear (respect) GOD or care about people’s thoughts.
  - And to be sure, “thoughts” equates to much more than just ideas. His lack of care for what people thought also means, this judge didn’t care about.
  - Also included:
    - Opinions
    - Feelings
    - Conditions
  - *Doesn’t this sound familiar?*
- “Judges” historically, were ideally wise, understanding, patient and solemn. The judge, in light of the description in this passage is likely the opposite: impulsive, greedy, rude and indifferent.
  - The judge was then was approached by a widow who sought justice against her adversary.
    - And her seeking of justice became a demand for justice.
  - *Doesn’t this sound familiar?*
- In a very real sense, this widowed woman found herself in a state of “*emotional and social quarantine*”. The text notes she is a widow. Although, this does not suggest she had children.
  - And, while this doesn’t mean she wasn’t a mother, the point Jesus is making is that the loss of her husband totally compromises her socio-economic status.

- She seemingly has no one to help her and apparently, has become vulnerable to neighbors and strangers alike.
  - *Doesn't this look familiar?*
- The Lord Jesus, states she has an adversary and demands justice from the justice regarding the adversary.
  - You'd need to read and re-read if not familiar with what's really being requested here.
  - She's demanding justice be administered to her adversary but what does SHE gain?
- Remember His audience: *The Disciples*. His students. His followers.
  - Those who He will entrust to forward the New Way/Christian Movement as Apostles.
- This is important. Here are some of my reasons why:
  - Everybody born under the sun will go through some form of *loss*. Consequently, everybody will go through or encounter some form of *adversity*.
  - Jesus wants us to know that in hard seasons just like favorable ones, we must PRAY. That is keep constant contact and conversation with the LORD.
  - And, not give up. Not give out. No grow to such a down place or state of weariness that we become exhausted to the degree we drift in bad spaces, thinking bad things and associating with bad company.
    - **ALWAYS PRAY. DON'T GIVE UP!**
- Jesus wants us to demand (expect) what is right from GOD. According to this passage, such expectations are at least two fold:
  - GOD is committed to the eventual progress and welfare of GOD's children.
  - GOD (still) works "all things together".
    - Romans 8:28
- This widow gets the best of this wicked "dignitary".
- He acknowledges that he doesn't fear GOD and doesn't care about people's opinions but for concern of retaliation, he enacts justice.
- Jesus cuts to the chase: Listen to what the judge did. Won't GOD do that for the people of GOD who cry out daily?
- Jesus concludes the teaching moment with a striking question:
  - (He says of Himself), When "the Son of Man" comes, will He find "faith" in the earth?

- (Keep in mind, He was referring to the HERE and NOW).
- Do we, as children of GOD trust the “GOD in us” enough to pray... and believe what we pray for?
  - Do we believe in the GOD to whom we pray?
  - When Jesus shows up, (i.e. in the midst of pandemics, quarantines, etc.), will He find faith amongst those who are His?

Additional Questions to Consider and be Prayerful About:

- *Are the adversities we currently experience in our life intimidated by us?*
- *In this season, how have our prayer lives and time spent with GOD helped us to move FORWARD?*
- *What positive gains have been made/victories have been won because you’ve refused to let up or give in? How is Lord revealing Himself to you in these moments? What are you learning about you?*