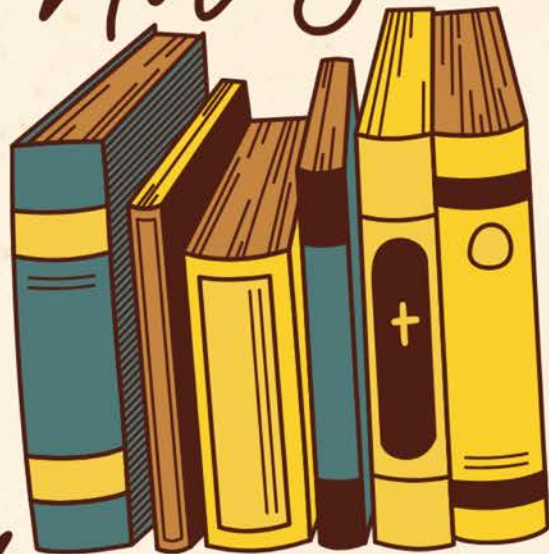


Not Just



Another Story





The
Story of



Not Giving Up

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

Luke 18:1-8

4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

Luke 18:1-8

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Today's Message

1. Story
2. Side Door
3. The Persistence of God

Luke 18:1-8

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Context: Last Week

30 “It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. 31 On that day no one who is on the housetop, with possessions inside, should go down to get them.

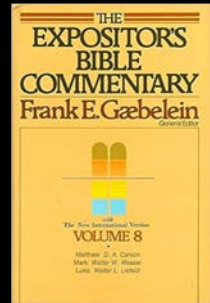
Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. 32 Remember Lot’s wife! 33 Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it.

(Luke 17:30-33 NIV)

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

“The judge is typical of a local Gentile judge known throughout the Hellenistic world...as a local secular administrative officer he would be approached by those who could not bring their cases to the high religious court. Being easily accessible and having the authority to make quick decisions, he would naturally be besieged by people such as the widow of the story (v.3).”



~Walter L. Liefeld, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*,
Matthew, Mark, Luke, Zondervan, 1984, p. 1000

Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’

Widows of the Bible:

- Tamar (Gen 38)
 - Ruth
- The widow at Zarephath who houses Elijah (1 Kgs 17:8–24)
 - Anna (Luke 2:36–38)
- The widow with two coins (Mark 12:42–44; Luke 21:2–3)
- The widow who continually seeks justice (Luke 18:1–8)

~Michelle J. Morris, "Widow," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

“The widow, of course, was a woman whose husband had died...Consequently biblical (and nonbiblical) legal codes provide for the protection of the rights of the fatherless and the widow (Exod. 22:22; Deut. 10:18; 24:17–22). The prophets were particularly concerned with the injustice done to the fatherless and widow (Isa. 1:17; Jer. 5:28; Mic. 2:9; Mal. 3:5). God declared that He would be a Father to the fatherless and provide justice for the widow (Deut. 10:18; Ps. 68:5).

The NT measured true religious character by a person’s care for the fatherless and the widow (James 1:27).”

~Gary V. Smith, “Poor, Orphan, Widow,” ed. Chad Brand et al., Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 1312.

“In an age when social services were almost exclusively dependent on human good will, widows, orphans, and the sick and needy were exposed to a precarious social existence. In Israel a woman’s link to the outside community depended largely on a male family member, a father in the case of a daughter, a husband in the case of a wife, a son in the case of a widow. The widow of v. 3 has no male to plead her case, leaving her especially defenseless and vulnerable.”

~James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Luke*, ed. D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos, 2015), 498.

Luke 18:3-5

3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

“The resolution of the judge has nothing to do with moral reform; he has no more fear of God or respect for people than he ever had. He is motivated solely by practicality, as was the man tucked in bed with his family (11:7–8). The widow’s incessant pleas interrupt his life and exhaust him, tax his patience, and bruise his reputation. Her effect on him is registered in a punishing metaphor: literally, she “is beating me black and blue and will be the end of me.”

~James R. Edwards, *The Gospel according to Luke*, ed. D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI; Cambridge, U.K.; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Apollos, 2015), 499.



Why does Jesus tell this story?

Luke 18:1

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them
that they should always pray and not give up.



PERSISTENCE

You have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince.

How is this *not* just another story?



Luke 18:1-8

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Practically on Prayer

1. The Pattern of the Lord's Prayer
2. A Word on Unanswered Prayer
3. The Persistence of God

Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Luke 11:1-4

“Father,

hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.

“The Westminster Shorter Catechism for Young Children asks the question, what is prayer? The answer: “Prayer is asking God for things which he has promised to give.” Are we praying for things God has promised to give—like his presence with us, his Word guiding us, his power working in us, his purpose accomplished through us? Or are we limited to praying only for what he has not promised to give...?”



~Nancy Guthrie, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/praying-past-preferred-outcomes/>



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Le Château du roi
El Castillo del Rey



Ages/edades
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King's Castle
933 pcs/pzs
Building Toy
Jouet de Construction
Juguete para Construir

Kingdoms



What about my unanswered
persistent prayers?

“I don’t like living with scarcity. I don’t like having just enough to meet my needs. I don’t like being dependent. It makes me feel vulnerable....That’s because deep down I’d rather depend on myself than on God. Though I want to serve him with my whole heart, trusting him in the dark can be frightening; it’s far easier when the future looks bright. I’d rather praise God for his abundant provision than daily depend on him to meet my basic needs. Thankfully, he doesn’t give me what I want or would choose on my own. He has something more magnificent in mind. He knows my security and confidence must be rooted in him, not in the good things he gives. Even though his gifts may be wonderful blessings, they cannot be my source of hope.”

“It’s wise to save money so we have enough to retire. But facing retirement with little savings may force us to depend on God in ways a large bank account never would. It’s wonderful to have great health and boundless energy. But being ill and relying on others for assistance may drive us to our knees, quicker and longer, each day. It’s a joy to have a house full of loving, obedient children. But crying out to God because of infertility or wayward kids may draw us into a deeper relationship with him.



~Vaneetha Risner, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/its-better-to-have-a-trouble/>



God will only give you what
you would have asked for if
you knew everything he knows.

Timothy Keller

The Persistence of God

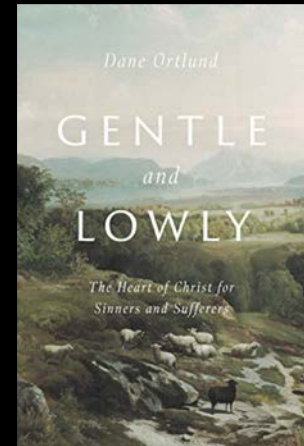
The Garden of Gethsemane

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. 45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."



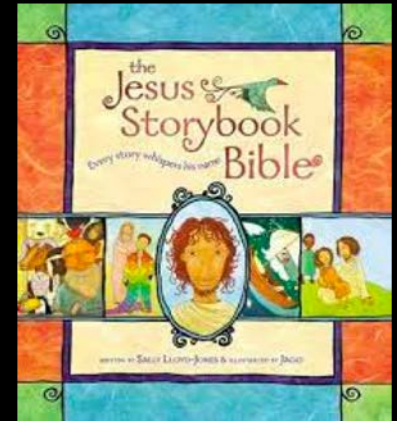
“That God is rich in mercy means that your regions of deepest shame and regret are not hotels through which divine mercy passes but homes in which divine mercy abides. It means the things about you that make you cringe most, make him hug hardest. It means his mercy is not calculating and cautious, like ours. It is unrestrained, flood-like, sweeping, magnanimous. It means our haunting shame is not a problem for him, but the very thing he loves most to work with.”

“It means our sins do not cause his love to take a hit. Our sins cause his love to surge forward all the more. It means on that day when we stand before him, quietly, unhurriedly, we will weep with relief, shocked at how impoverished a view of his mercy-rich heart we had.”



~Dane Ortlund, Gentle and Lowly

“God loves us! Nothing can ever - no, not ever! - separate us from the Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love of God he showed us in Jesus!”



~Sally Lloyd-Jones, The Jesus Storybook Bible

Gospel Response

Do you see the persistent mercy of God?

Let's pray "Your Kingdom Come"