

The Persistent Widow
or
Our Just God
Luke 18:1-8

When you pray ...

- I. Jesus' Sympathetic Heart
 - A. Potential Discouragement
 - B. Persistent Plea
- II. An Encouraging Parable
 - A. A Desperate Widow
 - B. A Calloused Judge
 - C. A "Happy" Ending
- III. An Intriguing Application
 - A. What Are You Crying About?
 - B. Know Your Adversaries
 - C. Your God Will Act
- IV. Jesus' Probing Question
 - A. When He Comes
 - B. What Will He Find

... don't lose heart.

Children, Listen ...

1. Luke tells us why Jesus told the parable. Why did he?
2. What was the judge in the story like?
3. Did the widow give up on trying to get help from the judge?
4. Why did the judge finally help the widow?
5. How is God very, very different from the judge?

Prayer in a Time of Trouble

O God, most wise and faithful Redeemer, Who hast permitted us to come into this present trial:
Grant that we may learn obedience by the things we suffer, and turn to Thee, our Helper in the time of trouble.
May there be no bitterness in our sorrow, no despair in our submission, and no doubt of Thee in our perplexity.
Teach us to face our trial bravely; make even the dark things of life to work together for our good;
and bring us speedily out of our distress, that we may praise Thee with a joyful heart;
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

- from the Book of Common Worship