

JESUS TEACHES TWO PARABLES ON PRAYER

(Luke 18:1-14)

A. THE PARABLE OF THE PERSISTENT WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE (Luke 18:1-8)

* According to Jesus, if we don't pray our other option is what? (v. 1)

1. Jesus pictured this judge as failing to do what the Mosaic Law required of Israel's judges, and that was to _____ God; this judge was a man of the _____. (v. 2)
 2. The Lord used a widow in His parable because they were the personification of _____, dependence, and _____ in Israel. (v. 3a, cf. Exod. 22:22-24; Ps. 68:5; Lam. 1:1)
 3. This widow was persistent in continually _____ the judge for protection; she represented the disciples who were equally _____ on the Lord for protection from those who opposed Christ. (v. 3b)
 4. This worldly judge in the parable granted the poor widow's request _____ because he _____ that she would "*nag him to death.*" (vv. 4-5)
- * Is Jesus teaching that if we "nag" God long enough we will get what we want from Him?
5. Christ used contrasts: God does _____ respond to His children begrudgingly, but out of _____ He is attentive to your every cry, and He is _____ about your needs and ready to answer. (vv. 6-8)

B. THE PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR (Luke 18:9-14)

1. Jesus specifically spoke this parable to those who _____ they were _____, and “*who trusted in themselves.*” (v. 9)

2. These two men were the epitome of social and spiritual extremes in Christ’s day, the Pharisee was regarded by the people as _____, while the tax collector was viewed as a despicable and _____ human being. (v. 10)

3. Even though the Pharisee addressed “*God*” in prayer, Jesus noted that he was really talking “_____” as he reviewed his own self-righteousness. (vv. 11-12)

4. The Pharisee was blissfully ignorant of his own _____, his fatal mistake was _____ himself with other _____, rather than with a perfect, holy, and righteous God.

5. The tax collector’s body language spoke volumes that he was painfully aware of his own _____ before the Lord; he had nothing to boast in, so he pled for God’s _____. (v. 13)

6. Jesus stated a fixed principle with God, “*for everyone who _____ will be humbled, and he who _____ will be exalted.*” (v. 14)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life regarding prayer?