

The Widow & the Judge

Pastor Mark Wilks, LUKE 18:1-8

Introduction:

- Jesus gives us the theme up front: persistent prayer
- This is a parable of contrast rather than of correspondence.
- The “always pray” idea means to pray consistently and persistently without losing heart.

1. The heartless judge.

- The judge acts solely in self-interest.
- He doesn't care about what men think about him – he has no shame.
- Literally, she “is beating me black and blue and will be the end of me.” Again he is acting in self-interest.

2. The abandoned widow.

- The widow is a symbol of the poor and defenseless.
- She realized she couldn't solve her own problems.
- Prayer is a matter of the trusting heart.

3. Our relationship with the one true judge.

- Learned desperation is at the heart of a praying life. Ps 42:1, Is. 26:9, Jn. 7:37
- Prayer is an action of the heart.

“Prayer isn't very important to many Christians because Jesus is just an add-on.” Paul Miller, A Praying Life

Application:

- 1) This week watch your attitudes and actions and ask yourself, “Am I self-dependent or God dependent?”
- 2) This week will your prayer life correctly reflect your answer?
- 3) Show yourself to be elect and pray persistently.