

The Life of Christ

Lesson 9

Luke 17:6, 18:1-8

March 7, 2021

When You Pray, Never Give Up

Introduction

It's easy to stop praying. And the reasons why people stop praying are many:

- There isn't enough time in the day
- I don't feel like God's listening to me
- He doesn't answer my prayers
- I forgot

And the list goes on and on. I'm sure each of us could add at least two more reasons to this list.

But when we do take our prayers to God, it's important to be persistent in our prayers, especially when it seems like God isn't answering us. We all have requests that we have brought to God – some of those have been our prayers for years. Prayers that we feel would bring glory to Him if only He answered them. And amid those problems, it's easy to give up and stop praying. But we need to remind ourselves to “always pray and not give up.” (Luke 18:1)

Memory verse: “He replied, ‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.’”— Luke 17:6

Pray and read Luke 17:6 and 18:1-8. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. What will the mulberry tree do, “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed?” (Luke 17:6)
2. What did the parable show the disciples? (Luke 18:1)
3. What was the widow’s plea? To whom was it given? (Luke 18:2-3)
4. How did the judge feel about God and what people think? (Luke 18:2, 4)
5. Why did the judge decide to give the woman justice? (Luke 18:5)
6. What questions does Jesus ask his disciples? (Luke 18:7)
7. What will God see that His chosen ones get? (Luke 18:8)

What do the passages mean?

1. When praying, we are prone to lose heart and give up when we don't receive answers right away. What do we need to know about God? (Psalms 103:13; Isaiah 54:10; Luke 18:7-8; 1 Peter 5:6-7; 2 Peter 3:9)

2. When taking our prayers to God, what must we understand about our own character? (Psalm 51:3, 5; Romans 3:9-12, 23; 1 John 1:8-10)

3. We often focus on our needs and problems. Why should our prayers start with a focus on God? (Psalm 147:5, Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; Ephesians 3:20-21)

4. If God knows all of our thoughts, needs, and problems before we come to Him in prayer, why must we be persistent in our prayer? (Psalm 37:5-6, 62:8; Jeremiah 29:12; Luke 11:9-10; James 4:8)

5. It's easy to give up on praying when it feels like our prayers aren't being answered. When should we stop praying? (1 Chronicles 16:11; Luke 18:1; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Applying the passages

1. Is it right to pray for something once, then stop? What keeps you from continually bringing your prayers to God?

2. What do you do when it seems like your prayers aren't being answered? How do you maintain faith that God hears your prayer?

3. What is one prayer that you feel you are continually praying for right now? Does that prayer need to change focus from what you want to God's will for your life?