

👉 How much do you use prayer? Are you good at it? Is it the bedrock of your life or just a sideshow?

1. The Judge.

- ✓ The judge is the worst a person can be in this life: No reverence for God and no care for people. His basic disposition is to break the first and second greatest commandments continually. It is super bad that he's in a position of power. It is the way that things are going, God often judges a nation by the leaders He allows into power. Woe to us as our world degenerates and people such as him come into control. There were a number of judges not far from this man's condition during the days of Jesus, the people of that day called them "robber Judges."

2. The Widow.

- ✓ This woman is in the worst possible situation. She is destitute financially but also she is destitute because she has no man in her life. The courts belonged to men in those days; men sat in the gates as elders and men dealt with men in matters of justice. The only time a woman was allowed in a court was when there was no man to go for her. She is destitute, powerless, helpless, deprived, lowly, unknown, unprotected, uncared for, the last person who could ever expect to get justice.

3. Her ploy, she keeps coming back! She does not give up, Luke 18:3.

- ✓ There is nothing to sway him, she has no pull either from conscience, fear, shame or guilt.

4. The Result, Luke 18:4.

- ✓ The judge is a self-confessed wretch with no noble motives. The word "Continually" literally means "forever," "she will wear me out" a boxing term used by Paul in 1st Corinthians 9:27, "she will keep beating me up with this." This woman is painful to him! The powerful, wicked judge is defeated by powerless woman through Her persistence.

5. What is the intent of this story?, Luke 18:1.

- ✓ The key to the door is hanging on the door! Luke's introduction to the parable is hard to misread. Pray specifically about what? This can be applied to prayer in general, but the context here applies to a specific type of prayer, a type of prayer that we aren't consistently praying for the most part but was top on the prayer list that Jesus recommends to us. Who is Jesus speaking to in Luke 17:22? The Disciples. What is He speaking about? His second coming! In Luke 18:1 there is no audience or scene change "He was telling them" in regards to His delay in coming and the difficulty of the times between His first and second comings "that they should always pray and never lose heart." Jesus is indeed building an invisible kingdom through salvation being enthroned in the hearts of those who believe in Him. But the invisible is just a precursor to the visible kingdom that He will set up in the future. Praying patiently and persistently to that end is what is in view here. Look how He concludes this parable in Luke 18:8. Does praying for His kingdom factor into your prayers much at all? It sure did in the prayers and wishes of the saints of New Testament! 2nd Peter 3:12-14; Romans 8:21-25 "waiting patiently", 1st Corinthians 16:22. Not only does Jesus tell us to pray that way but that we, like the widow, should never lose heart in praying that way. When you travel somewhere, don't you most often plan out your destination first? Not until then can you know how the trip will go, what you can and cannot do, how much money it will take, how long you'll be gone, etc. Christians, quite often, don't know what to do or how to handle day to day issues partly because we have no real sense of our destination. When we know how it ends and keep that in view at all times, we know how to prorate our money, time, energies. How we handle our lives day to day should be powerfully influenced by strong and persistent prayer that Jesus comes soon! If a wicked judge will protect a powerless widow, how much more will the righteous Judge protect His own? "As we cry to Him," how often? "Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So, don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?" Luke 18:7. Do you do this? "And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven, Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment," 1st Thessalonians 1:10. We can't live our lives the way the Lord wants unless we live it in the light of the Second Coming. It colors all else when we pray, Matthew 6:10. We are comforted in it: 2nd Thessalonians 4:13-17. We are purified by it, 1st John 3:2-3. We are driven to reach others for Christ by it, 2nd Corinthians 5:10-11.

The Christian life is lived properly through reverse engineering, take the finished product, redeemed in soul and body, in the presence of the Sovereign Lord who is ruling as king forever in a new heaven and earth where righteousness is the only option. What matters is how we served and who we served, wickedness has been judged eternally and the smoke of their torment ascends forever, ever intent of the heart has been revealed and answered to from this perspective, reverse engineer how you should currently live.
