

Class 3 - Prayer: The Friend at Midnight & The Unjust Judge



“Men ought always to pray and not to faint.”



Prayer

- This **MUST** be a very important principle for Jesus to repeat the main concept in two different parables!
- If we respond to the genuine need **for a friend**, even when it's inconvenient – how much more will God respond to our needs!
- If an **unbeliever** responds to the persistent request of someone he doesn't even care for – how much more will God grant us our requests!
- This should give impetus to our prayers
- This should give us confidence in prayer!

Friend @ Midnight

Luke 11:5-13

- Context:
 - (before) The Lord's Prayer
 - (after) Ask and ye shall receive...If your son asks for bread will you give him a stone...



Details of parable:

The story of 3 friends...

- The host (unprepared for visitor)
- The traveller (arriving at midnight!)
- The neighbour (inconvenienced by the other two!)



'importunity' (KJV)

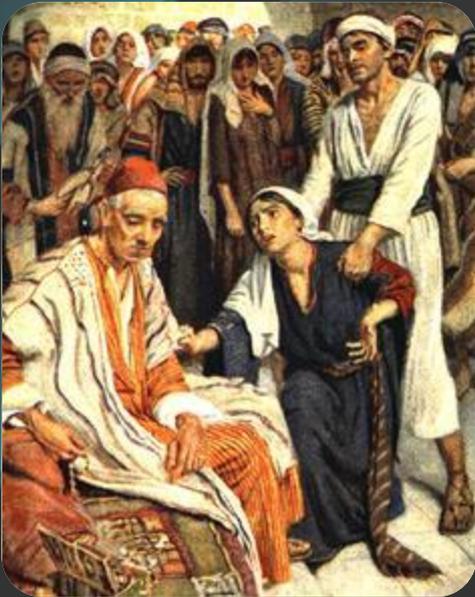
- persistence (NKJV)
- literally: Without shamefacedness, Not reverent.
- This must be a case of extreme need – we would not normally ask this of a friend!
- (It is the negative of the word used in 1 Timothy 2:9 (shamefacedness) and Hebrews 12:28 (reverence))

“as many as he needeth...”

- Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have **need** of all these things.
- Luke 12:30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye **have need** of these things.

The Unjust Judge: The purpose of the Parable

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint



Details of the Parable

- The judge did not fear God or regard people
- The widow needed avenging from an adversary
- The judge ignored her for awhile
- Finally he acted – just so that he could get rid of her continual requesting





'not to faint'

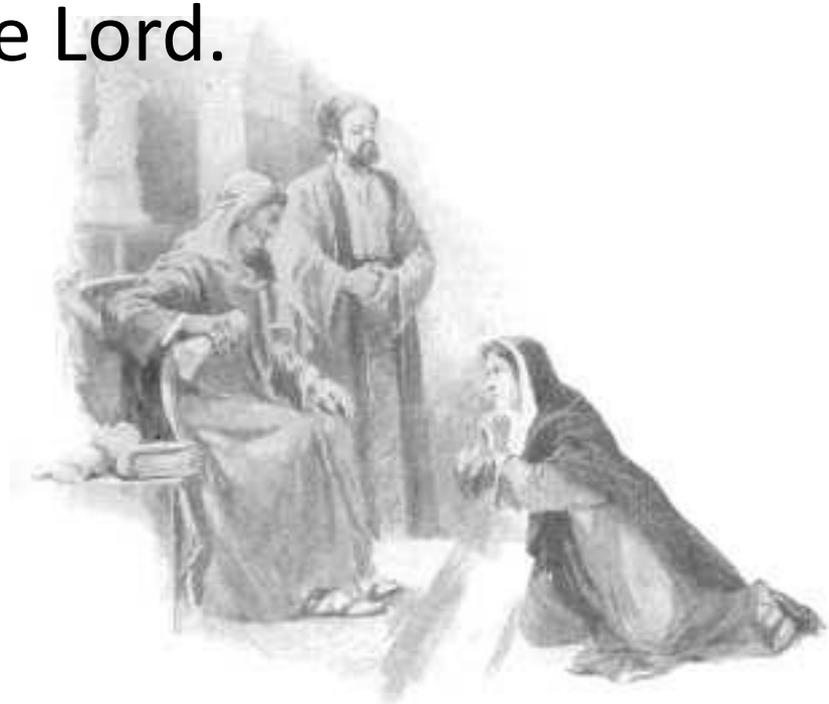
2Corinthians 4:1 ¶ Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

2Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Ephesians 3:13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

'avenge'

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved,
avenge not yourselves, but rather
give place unto wrath: for it is
written, Vengeance is mine; I will
repay, saith the Lord.



'bear long with them'

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.





“shall he find faith”

- Will He find the kind of faith that is still seeking His help in times of need?
- Have we become too self-reliant, or too self-sufficient?
- When was the last time you had a desperate need that you could not fulfill yourself and had to throw yourself completely into the hands of God?