

PRAYER PART 2

Luke 18. 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone,⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming." ' ⁶And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

- 1) Why did Jesus tell this parable?
- 2) Have you ever lost heart in your praying? Why?
- 3) Some say that prayer is passive because it's not practical action. Is the widow passive?
- 4) What does this parable teach about the relationship between praying and doing?
- 5) Have you ever prayed for justice? Has it made a difference in your life? How?

Luke 22. 39-46

39 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' [[⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]] ⁴⁵When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

1) Have you ever felt anguish as you were praying? Why does Jesus feel anguish?

2) What is Jesus' will and what is God's will as they are in tension?

3) What does it mean to pray that you do not come into the time of trial?

4) Have you ever prayed for protection, not just from external threats but protection from making a bad choice?

Have you ever prayed for the courage to do the right thing?

Have you ever prayed that God walk with you through a particular time of trial?

Have you ever prayed that God help you find purpose, direction or fulfillment, healing or peace after you've been through something hard?