

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map  
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 18:1-8a  
October 25, 2015

**Always pray. Never lose heart. Plead with God day and night.**

*[Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.* Luke 18:1 ESV

- ❖ “Ought” calls each and every Christian to evaluate personal prayer life
  - ◆ Faithful habit of memorized prayers, important, would miss if missed
  - ◆ Mainly spiritual 911 calls
  - ◆ A struggle. As awkward and formal as my first interview
  - ◆ Rarely practiced outside church
  - ◆ A highlight of my day. *I can hardly wait.* Often get lost in prayer, lose track of time. Like time with an old friend - my best friend.
- ❖ Look at the Parable of the Persistent Widow
  - ◆ Reasons to be disheartened: No helper + An adversary + Bad judge
  - ◆ Reasons to persist: Need + just cause + address Judge’s motivation
  - ◆ If persistence pays with an unjust Judge, it will pay with our Helper

**Always pray. Never lose heart. Plead with God day and night.**
- ❖ Focus on the basis for prayer
  - ◆ We come to the holy Just Judge. No sinner has the right to approach
  - ◆ Jesus, our Holy Substitute, is our basis to approach.
    - *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
    - His cleansing blood. His robe of righteousness.
    - God adopted us in Baptism, born of God, given living faith
  - ◆ We come before the Lord Almighty, our dear Father of love, mercy...
    - *will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?*
    - In God’s grace he chose us from eternity to be his own
    - Prayer is *living in* and *breathing* this special relationship

- ❖ What prayer is and isn’t.
  - ◆ Persistent prayer is **not** vain babbling, seeking to manipulate God by annoying him. Or buying his favor by the level of our devotion.
  - ◆ Prayer is **not** informing God about something he doesn’t know.
  - ◆ Prayer does **not** seek to make God my puppet on a string
  - ◆ Prayer **is** practicing our very special relationship with God
    - speaking to God’s nature & character - petitioning per promises
    - approaches God with love & respect, trusting his answer & timing
    - which does tug on the strings of God’s tender heart
    - A lack of prayer reveals little knowledge or appreciation for all this!
    - A vibrant relationship with God is exercised in a vibrant prayer life
- ❖ Look to remove all barriers to *always pray*.
  - ◆ Motivation: Know God, relationship, promises, command to pray.
  - ◆ Confess what you love more than God - *I’d rather spend time with...*
  - ◆ Prioritize a time, place/space, what - a prayer list (bulletin, your own)
    - Begin reflecting on God and promises (The Lord’s Prayer)
    - From this spiritual wellspring prayer flows night and day.
    - Take the world’s assaults and injuries there. Let the frustration and anger melt into God’s mercy - trusting his care and mercy to others
- ❖ Lest we lose heart... Prayer for Peace Lutheran
  - ◆ Pray discover her mission and eagerly embrace it.
  - ◆ Pray that each of us discover God’s mission for each of us.
  - ◆ Pray that we live vibrant lives close to the Lord God, the true God
  - ◆ Thank God for Missionary Flunker. Pray his work prospers.

Between God’s nature, promises, and answered prayers, may we live...

**Always pray. Never lose heart. Plead with God day and night.**