

12-30-2018

### The Resolution

**Luke 18:1-8** <sup>1</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup>He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup>And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup>“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup>yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” <sup>6</sup>And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup>And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup>I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (NIV)

I. Here are the details of this parable.

- A. The parable was to illustrate the need for **persistent** prayer. V. 1
- B. There was a godless and heartless **judge** in a certain town. V. 2
- C. There was a **widow** who kept pleading for justice from him. V. 3
- D. Her **consistent** pleading led him to give in to her demands and he granted her justice. V. 4-5
- E. We can **approach** God in this same way through our prayers.
- F. This kind of prayer shows a deep **faith** that Christ wants to find on earth when He returns.

II. What can we take away from this simple message?

- A. Beware of anyone who teaches to **ignore** the teachings of Jesus Christ. His teaching has got to be a priority for us.

**Acts 20:22-31** <sup>22</sup>“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup>I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup>However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. <sup>25</sup>“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup>Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. <sup>27</sup>For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup>Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of *the church of God*, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup>I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup>Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup>So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. (NIV)

- B. Pray **bold** prayers!
- C. **Testify** to God’s faithfulness in answering prayers!