

## The Widow; The Pharisee and Tax Collector



MEMORY VERSE: Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



### LUKE 18:1-8 The Persistent Widow

1. What did Jesus want His disciples to learn from this story?
2. Why did the widow keep going back to the unjust judge?
3. What can we learn from the unjust judge? vv. 7-8



### LUKE 18:9-14 The Pharisee and Tax Collector

4. Who did Jesus tell this story to?
5. The Pharisee was a religious man. What did he pray?
6. The Tax Collector was despised for taking people's money. What did he pray?

7. What did God think about their prayers? Why? v. 14



## 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 The Heart of Prayer

8. Prayer is talking to God. Why do you think these help our prayers?

Being Joyful

Being persistent

Being Thankful

9. To be humble means we know we are sinful and need God's help. How can you tell that the widow and the tax collector were both humble?

### BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Prayer is one of the most important things we can do! We can talk to God about anything and know that He always hears our prayers and is ready to help us. The more we pray, the more we learn how to pray and the closer we get to God.

### PRAY THE TRUTH

Mighty God,  
Thank You that I can come to You in prayer any time and any place. Help me to pray with joy, thankfulness and humility. Help me to keep at it and be persistent in prayer.  
Amen.

### WALK IN TRUTH



How do these parables encourage you to pray?

Is there anything you want to change about the way you pray?



## Luke 18:1-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### Parable of the Persistent Widow

#### Luke 18:1-8

<sup>1</sup> One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. <sup>2</sup> “There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. <sup>3</sup> A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’ <sup>4</sup> The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> but this woman is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’”

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

### Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector

#### Luke 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus told this story to some who had great confidence in their own righteousness and scorned everyone else: <sup>10</sup> “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don’t cheat, I don’t sin, and I don’t commit adultery. I’m certainly not like that tax collector! <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’”

<sup>13</sup> “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Always be joyful. <sup>17</sup> Never stop praying. <sup>18</sup> Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

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