



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

05/08/2016

The parable of the persistent widow challenges the concept of the “vending-machine God.” Her struggles in the face of injustice highlight the justice of God and the value of faith in the long-haul of life.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 18:1-8.

1. What does Jesus state as the purpose of the parable in verse 1? Why are these two reasons paired together?
2. Why does the judge ultimately grant the widow’s request? How does this compare to God’s response?
3. The widow pursues justice, something the Old Testament commanded for widows. How does this influence her persistency?
4. When you consider your prayers, how do you evaluate their alignment with God’s will? (cf. 1 John 5:13-15)
5. Jesus asks if he will find faith on the earth like that of the widow. How does faith impact persistence? In what do you place faith?

6. Describe the character of God in this parable? How does he compare to the judge?

7. How do the three imperatives “ask,” “seek,” and “knock” in Luke 11:9-13 inform your understanding of prayer?

8. Prayer has been described as a decision to partner with God and let him take the lead. How does prayer reflect our heart and attitude toward God? (2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 34:17-18)

9. Why is prayer so important to our relationship with God? Does prayer actually change anything (cf. Exodus 32:11-14)?

10. How did the stories of answered and unanswered prayers on Sunday impact your faith or understanding of God?

11. What prayers have you held onto the longest? Have any been answered? Or are you still awaiting a response from God?

MOVING FORWARD

In the midst of trials Lamentations 3:21-25 serves as powerful reminder, meditate on these verses: “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.”