

FIREPROOF Bible Study

Luke 18:1-14 "The Persistent Widow, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector"

Introduction: We're going to close our extended study in parables with a quick look at a few short parables that cover prayer, faith, and attitude.

Turn or click to Luke 18:1-14

Read Luke 18:1-8

After looking at many of Jesus' parables, we know they are all messages of varying complexity to get across simple points. The Parable of the Persistent Widow has one of the simplest meanings of all – it states it before Jesus even begins speaking! The point we need to draw from this story is that God will not ignore us. Even if we must be persistent for days, weeks, or months, he will not forget us. Most importantly, he does not view us in a begrudging way like the judge in this parable. Instead, he loves us and wants to help us. With persistency of prayer, anything can be accomplished – just as the walls of Jericho fell from persistent prayer and reverence to God, any "walls" we have in our life can be similarly crushed by our faith and a good attitude toward prayer.

(If you're not familiar with the story of Joshua and the fall of Jericho, read Joshua chapters 5 and 6.)

Read Luke 18:9-14

Again we have an example of a short but very compelling parable. This passage proves that we should not only pray continually, but we should have a good attitude at the same time. As we have talked about before, God can see everything. He knows when we have not lived for Him, so we can't expect to hide our action (or inaction) with arrogant prayers. God gives us so much, and we should fall before him and admit our sins so we may be forgiven. Would you be like the self-serving Pharisee who praised himself in his prayers, or the humble tax collector who realized that he was not worthy of an ounce of what he had?

God Bless,
Stay FIREPROOF.