

The Persistent Widow – Sermon Discussion Guide

Series: Stories with Intent – The Parables of Jesus

Text: Luke 18:1–8

Big Idea: Faith-fully keep praying every prayer in light of this great prayer, “Come, Jesus, Come!”

Warm-Up / Ice Breaker Questions

- 1 What is something you started with enthusiasm but found difficult to stick with over time? What made it hard to persist?
- 2 Have you ever had to keep asking for something because the first answer was “no” or silence? What was that experience like?
- 3 When you hear the word “persistent,” do you tend to think of it as positive or negative? Why?
- 4 What emotions surface for you when you think about waiting—especially waiting for something important or unresolved?

Observational Questions (What does the text say?)

- 1 According to verse 1, why does Jesus tell this parable?
- 2 How is the judge described in verses 2 and 4? What does he lack?
- 3 What do we learn about the widow from verse 3 and from her repeated actions?
- 4 What finally motivates the judge to act on the widow’s behalf?
- 5 In verses 6–7, what comparison does Jesus make between the unjust judge and God?
- 6 How does Jesus describe God’s people in verse 7? What are they doing?
- 7 What promise does Jesus make in verse 8—and what question does He leave unanswered?

Interpretive Questions (What does it mean?)

- 1 How does the broader context of Luke 17:20–18:8 shape the meaning of this parable?
- 2 Why is this parable not primarily about getting answers to individual prayers, but about praying in light of Jesus’ return?
- 3 How does the “lesser to greater” argument strengthen our confidence in God’s character?
- 4 What does this parable teach us about the tension between God’s justice and God’s timing?
- 5 When Jesus asks, “Will he find faith on the earth?” what kind of faith is He describing?
- 6 How does the widow’s social vulnerability deepen the meaning of her persistence?
- 7 What does the word “quickly” (v. 8) seem to mean in light of Noah, Lot, and the coming of the Son of Man?

Application Questions (How should we respond?)

- 1 Where in your life are you tempted to stop praying because the waiting feels too long or the silence too heavy?
- 2 How does reframing prayer around “Come, Jesus, come” change the way you bring personal needs to God?
- 3 Which areas of brokenness in your life or in the world most stir longing for Christ's return?
- 4 What does persistent prayer look like when answers don't come immediately—or at all?
- 5 How can this group help one another not lose heart while waiting on God's justice?
- 6 In what ways might God be inviting you to grow in faith—not by receiving quick answers, but by learning to wait well?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, we live in a broken world that longs for Your justice and peace. Teach us to pray without losing heart. Help us to trust Your character, wait for Your timing, and live in faith as we cry together: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.