

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#69 – “Being a Dog in Prayer” – Luke 18:1-8

I. Introduction

A. Prayer as a formidable task

1. The issue concerns perseverance

B. Why is persistence in prayer so difficult?

1. Because we talk to someone that we cannot see.
2. Because we often do not see answers to what we have asked for in the past.

C. All of these thoughts are germane to today’s text.

1. Luke 18:1-8

II. Exposition

A. Luke 18:2-5

1. Good stories are built around interesting characters.
2. Today’s story
 - a. Man – great power
 - b. Woman – no power

3. A judge who did not fear God

- a. Consider the remarks of King Jehoshaphat to the judges of Israel – II Chron. 19:6-7
- b. The Talmud
 1. Note verse 4

4. The widow – no means

- a. Old Testament commanded care of widows.

1. Ex. 22:22; Isa. 1:17,23

5. Bribes were common.

6. Her main asset – persistence – “kept coming”

a. Illustration from National Geographic

B. Luke 18:6-7

1. God is not like the unjust judge.

a. A bad example to make a good point.

2. Jesus supplies the interpretation.

a. If this woman got vindication from a corrupt judge, how much more will the saints receive from God?

1. John MacArthur

C. Luke 18:8

1. All generations believed Jesus would return in their time.

2. The question is over faith.

a. The elect will be kept as evidenced by their faith, but do you have faith?

3. Doggedness and prayer.

III. Points for Reflection

A. There is a profound contrast between the unjust judge and God himself.

B. We must take more seriously the Lord’s Prayer.

C. We need not badger God for a response. Persistence in prayer is not the same as nagging in prayer.

D. We live in the now and not yet. Never forget it!

E. When the Son of God returns will He find you in the faith?