

# PARABLES

- OF JESUS -

## WEEK 5 – THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

### **Luke 17:33-37 [NLT]**

<sup>33</sup> If you cling to your life, you will lose it, and if you let your life go, you will save it. <sup>34</sup> That night two people will be asleep in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. <sup>35</sup> Two women will be grinding flour together at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.”

<sup>37</sup> “Where will this happen, Lord?” the disciples asked.

Jesus replied, “Just as the gathering of vultures shows there is a carcass nearby, so these signs indicate that the end is near.”

**PARABLE:** *A simple story with a spiritual truth.*

### **Luke 18:1-9 [NLT]**

<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?”

**:: What are you waiting for?**

**:: What are you praying for?**

**:: What are you doing while you wait?**

**Hebrews 11:1**

*Now faith is confidence in  
what we hope for and  
assurance about what we  
do not see.*

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**NOTES:**

***"When God wants to change the world, he doesn't send in the tanks.  
He sends in the meek, the mourners, those who are hungry and thirsty  
for God's justice, the peacemakers..." N.T. Wright***

## **How to start a relationship with God:**

- 1) Admitting that you, like everyone else, are in need of rescue.
- 2) Asking God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Saying YES to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to look to you and follow you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.***

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## **For Further Reflection:**

- :: How does the reality that Jesus is returning shape your life choices?
  - :: What are your emotions about this truth?
  - :: Can you pray 'Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come' with sincerity?
  
- :: Read/Review this week's parable [The Persistent Widow]
  - :: Take time to explore this parable using: observe-interpret-apply.
  - :: What can you learn about prayer?
  - :: What does this parable reveal to you about God/yourself?
  - :: Where do you see/experience injustice in the world? What would it look like for you to be an agent of reconciliation in that space?
  
- :: What obstacles do you encounter in prayer?
  - :: How do you address those?
  - :: We are instructed in Scripture to "pray continually" (1 Thes. 5:17), what does this practice look like in your life?
  
- :: How have you seen your faith grow as you have walked with Jesus?
  - :: What has strengthened it and what has challenged it?
  
- :: Identify one thing you can do to be more like the widow in how you approach God this week.
  
- :: Ask at least one person to pray for you & encourage you as you do it.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Beth Cossin (@bethcossin) – August 3 & 4, 2019

Watch this message and other recent messages online at [heritageqc.com/watch](https://heritageqc.com/watch)



 **ZOE** EMPOWERMENT GROUP | "THE CONQUERORS" | APRIL 2019 

We are excited to introduce you to our Zoe Empowerment Group in Kenya – “The Conquerors”. This group of 89 children represents 33 family groups who have come together to support each other emotionally, physically and relationally as they learn how to work themselves out of poverty and vulnerability. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to journey with us as we partner with this amazing group over the next two and a half years! You have the opportunity to adopt a specific family in prayer by taking a prayer card located in our lobby area – each one has a unique family group on the card! Additionally, we are looking forward to sending our first team from Heritage in September to personally connect with and encourage The Conquerors to be strong in Jesus. They leave September 3<sup>rd</sup> and return the 12<sup>th</sup> – we encourage you to partner with them in prayer as they represent Jesus and us in that space. Can’t wait to celebrate what God does in and through them during this time!



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