

January 2, 2022

**Resolution to Pray**  
**Luke 18:1-14**  
**Pastor Kirk Gambrell**

Vol. 12 Num.1

## Using This Study

### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we start back on our study of Luke. In Luke Chapter 18 Jesus starts with two parables about prayer. The first parable is about persistence. It tells of a woman that persistently comes before a judge that does not offer justice. In the end the judge offers justice only because of the woman's persistence. The second parable tells of two men praying, one thanking God that he is not a sinner and the other lamenting that he is a sinner. These two parables give great insight to how we should humbly pray with great persistence. Join us this week as we talk about the how we can pray with great power.



### **Prayer and the Parable of the Persistent Widow**

1 Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should always pray and not lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. 3 There was also a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ 4 For a while he refused, but later on he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor have regard for people, 5 yet because this widow keeps on bothering me, I will give her justice, or in the end she will wear me out by her unending pleas.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unrighteous judge says! 7 Won’t God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long to help them? 8 I tell you, he will give them justice speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

### **The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector**

9 Jesus also told this parable to some who were confident that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else. 10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: extortionists, unrighteous people, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.’ 13 The tax collector, however, stood far off and would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, be merciful to me, sinner that I am!’ 14 I tell you that this man went down to his home justified rather than the Pharisee. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

**● EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. What other areas of Scripture are directly related to this passage that might help us understand this passage better?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. In what ways does the judge represent God?

9. Why does the judge give into the woman's request ?

10. What is Jesus telling His disciples about prayer?

11. Jesus shares a second parable in this section, who does He share it with?

12. Why is the Pharisee condemned for thanking God that he is not a sinner?

13. How is the tax collector justified?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)  
Why does this MATTER to me?

14. What basic truths do we learn about prayer from these two parables?

15. What things can help us be persistent in prayer?

16. When is it easier to pray like the Pharisee?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

*Sermon Notes*