

## AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Persistent prayer of a widow” Luke 18

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 18: 1-8

### 1. *Persistent pleading of a widow*

- A. Luke states the Lord’s purpose in telling this parable – to teach the disciples that they ought to pray and not to lose heart. Apostle Paul encouraged the Christians to be persistent in prayer:  
*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God* [Philippians 4:6]
- B. The widow had been wronged by someone, but she was too weak to do anything about it. She needed someone with power to avenge her of the wrong. She wanted the wrongdoer to be punished and make her case right. She went to the judge in town repeatedly. The judge did not fear God but regarded men only. Therefore, he would not heed the plea of this poor widow. However, because of her persistent pleading, he decided to avenge her. [v. 5]
- C. This parable contrasts the two persons, the unrighteous judge and the poor but persistent widow, against the righteous God of heaven and the elect of God who prays continually [v. 7]. Though it may take long before God answers our prayers, God of righteousness will answer the prayer of the righteous saints and heed their pleas:  
*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.* [1 Peter 3: 12]

*The Lord is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.* [Prov. 15: 29]

- D. What is the vengeance of God’s children? In Revelation we read of God’s saints pleading God even in heaven to avenge of their blood, which they shed in persecutions. Thus, Lord Jesus is telling them of coming persecutions.  
*And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”* [Revelation 6: 10]

As we studied in our previous study on the events in the last days, there comes a prophesied time when God will destroy all of His enemies when they come against Him and Israel in utter hatred. It will be the ultimate winepress treading of God’s wrath. And the incessant pleading of the persecuted, martyred saints of God will be answered in complete avenging. Lord Jesus here promised that God will avenge of His people in the last days [“*when the Son of man comes*” (v. 8)]. And they are to never stop praying and not be disappointed because of the tardiness of the Lord’s answer.

### 2. *Will Lord Jesus find (true) faith on the earth when He comes back?*

- A. In verse 8 Lord Jesus asks a very serious question – “*When the Son of man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?*” This question, though spoken to His 12 disciples, is addressed to the Christians of all NT era. True faith of Lord Jesus, that propagated from the land of Israel to all parts of the Roman Empire in the first century, has spread to all parts of the world. And the Christendom has enlarged significantly over the centuries. However, Christianity has also been polluted much so that diverse doctrines and cultures proliferate. The religion of Christianity has grown much. But, the purity of the early Christian faith has been polluted and tainted in some ways. The Lord’s question is still addressed to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – “*When I return to the world in the promised way, will there be people of true faith on the earth?*” Will there still be people holding true to the teachings of the Lord with untainted, pure spirit and motives?

*Topics of Discussion:*

1. *What is my most important plea to God in my daily prayers?*
2. *What practices/ cultures/ doctrines of our churches have deviated from the purity of the Christian faith?*