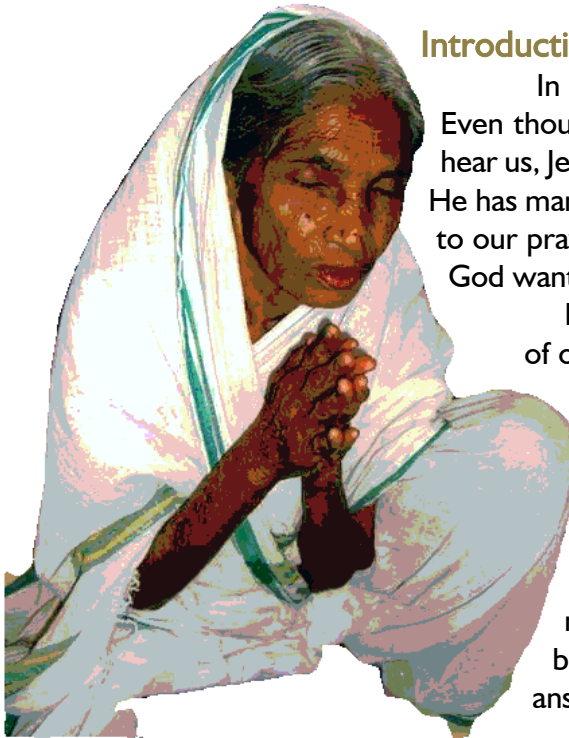


# The Persistent Widow

## Memory Verse

I Thessalonians 5: 16-18

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*



## Introduction

In the first lesson, we learned that we are commanded to pray. Even though we may not feel worthy or may think that God does not hear us, Jesus invites us to pray. We pray because God is our Father, and He has many promises for us. He wants us to trust that He will respond to our prayers. As long as we live in a sinful world with many troubles, God wants us to look to Him always for help.

Last lesson, we learned that we pray in Jesus' name. Because of our sins, heaven was closed to us, and the Father did not hear our cries. But Jesus died for all our sins, and He has opened up heaven for us. God now hears our prayers. Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father, and in His name we come near the throne of God with our prayers.

Today, we learn to pray without ceasing. We learn to never give up in prayer. We learn to be persistent. *Persistent* means to never give up. We should not stop praying just because they are not answered the way we want them to be answered.

**Read Luke 18: 1-7 and answer the following questions:**

1. Write down the two reasons why Jesus taught this parable, according to verse 1:

(1)

(2)

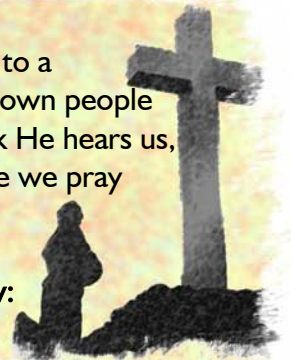
2. Why did the unjust judge finally answer the woman's request?

3. According to verse 7, for what do the elect cry out to God day and night?

## The Persistent Widow

In this parable, Jesus makes a very powerful point. If a wicked judge will respond to a poor widow's needs because she is persistent, how much more will God respond to His own people who are persistent? God loves us more than anyone can love us. Even if we do not think He hears us, He most certainly does. He hears every one of our prayers. He knows our needs before we pray them! His Holy Spirit even prays in us at all times!

**Read the following stories about persistence in prayer. Answer the questions that follow:**



1. Matthew 15: 22-28

How many times did the woman pray to Jesus?

Why might the woman have given up praying?

2. Matthew 20: 29-34

How many times did the blind men pray to Jesus?

Why might the blind men have given up praying?

(How does this picture here show where we get our sight?)

3. Write down some reasons why we might give up praying:



4. How do these stories show that we should never give up?

5. What prayer did the woman and the blind men pray that we pray every week in church? How many times do we pray this prayer during the service?

6. How does Jesus answer this prayer in church? How will He finally answer it one day?

### Vengeance on our enemies

In the Parable of the Persistent Widow, Jesus says, “Shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him?”

To avenge is to get revenge on. In Revelation 6, we see the souls of many saints who are under the altar



**Jesus rules over all things in heaven and on earth.  
He rules over sin, death, and the devil.**

We pray that God would have mercy on us and save us from these enemies, because sin, death, and the devil attack us daily.

**What do the following verses say about what Jesus will do with our enemies?**

1. I Corinthians 15: 25-26
  
2. Hebrews 10: 12-14
  
3. Psalm 106: 10-11
  
4. Romans 16: 20

of God. These are saints who were killed for their faith. They are praying this prayer to God: “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

In Psalm 94: 1, we pray, “O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongs -- O God, to whom vengeance belongs, shine forth! Rise up, O Judge of the earth; Render punishment to the proud.”

Are we really supposed to pray for God to avenge our enemies? Doesn't Jesus say we should pray for our enemies? Yes! So what is it? Should we pray for them, or should we pray that God avenges them?

We pray for our enemies because we hope they will repent and believe in Jesus. We hope that they will give up their sins. Jesus prayed for His enemies on the cross. He said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

But there are other enemies who will never repent. Among these enemies are sin, death, and the devil. An enemy may be a sin that we keep on doing, but wish would go away. An enemy may be a sickness or disease that attacks us. An enemy may be the devil, who tempts us always.



## Activity: The Kyrie

After the *Magnificat* in Vespers, we pray the *Kyrie*. *Kyrie* means, "Lord, have mercy."

1. Read Psalm 123.
2. Write out this Psalm below.

Verse 1:

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

3. Underline the *Kyrie* part.

4. Circle the words that describe what we are like when we pray the *Kyrie*.

