



FROM NAGGING TO BLESSINGS!

Luke 18:1-8; I John 5:14, 15; Mark 6:41

I. INTRODUCTION

Today's passage is a parable told by Jesus. Sounds simple enough. This unique story, however, is about a nameless widow in a nameless city who nags a nameless judge for justice until the judge grants her request. The punch is: Jesus TEACHES us of prayer by telling this very curious story.

Today's message is designed to accomplish several objectives:

- 1) change your attitude about and approach to prayer;
- 2) encourage you to become more aggressive when you pray;
- 3) help you overcome obstacles when you pray;
- 4) empower you to pray more efficaciously when you know you are right; and
- 5) learn how to NAG The Lord effectively!

NAG: to annoy or irritate a person with continuous urging.

II. A JUDGE — v. 2

- A. A judge who neither feared God nor respected people was, by Biblical standards, a bad judge. **Exodus 18:21; Leviticus 19:15,16**
 - B. The judge was supposed to settle disputes fairly and to restore justice.
 - C. The woman did not allow the bad judge or his reputation to deter her.
 - D. You will not allow anyone – or their reputation – to deter you from getting what you know God has for you!
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III. A WIDOW — v. 3

- A. Widows, in Israelite tradition, were very vulnerable: a) they could not inherit their husband's property; b) there was no social welfare program; and c) there was no opportunity for independent employment for them.
 - B. In this story, the judge is the widow's only hope for justice. And, he is a bad judge!
 - C. What do you do when your only solution to your problem is in the hands of an unjust person?
 - D. Nag...nag...nag
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IV. A MONOLOGUE — vv. 4, 5

- A. The reader hears the judge's interior monologue. Like the rich man (**12:17-19**); the prodigal son (**15:17-19**); and the dishonest manager (**16:1-12**), the judge talks to himself.
- B. The judge decides to grant the widow justice **ONLY** so she will not "hit him in the eye."

- C. The judge does the unexpected thing in response to a powerless widow!
- D. He does the unexpected simply because he wants her to stop bugging him!

V. A DECISION — v. 7

- A. In this context, “quickly” does not refer to chronology. It means, instead, that God will not hesitate to vindicate those who call on Him!
- B. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you are a member of the elect. **Romans 8:33**
- C. So, call on Him!

VI. A CALLING

- A. Jesus’ followers should have the endurance of the “long pull” that faith requires. You gotta learn to have and implement “long pull” faith by nagging.
- B. Luke discourages presumption about when Jesus will return. Have faith until He does return.
- C. Meanwhile, “nag” God for what you know He has, including justice.

VII. A COMPARISON

- A. The widow appeared before the judge in a courtroom.
You, on the other hand, can appear before God in His Throne Room. Hebrews 4:14-16
- B. The judge did not care about the widow.
God, on the other hand, cares! Luke 11:3
- C. The widow did not have legal access to the judge.
You, on the other hand, have legal access to God at all times! Ephesians 2:18
- D. The widow did not have the promises of God to rely on.
You, on the other hand, do! Romans 8:26
- E. The widow petitioned the judge from poverty.
You, on the other hand, petition God from a position of riches. Philippians 4:19

Source: The People’s New Testament Commentary by Fred Craddock and M. Boring

September 8, 2019