

I. Read Luke 18:1-8

- A. *Vine's Expository Dictionary* defines parable (*parabole*) thusly, "...denotes a placing beside...it signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison." To understand the parable of the persistent widow, one must know what a parable is. In verses 1-8, Jesus is making an important point in his comparison. What is it?

A secondary point Jesus makes with the parable might be:

- B. Why does God hear any of our prayers?

Psalms 4:1; 6:2, 9

Psalm 17:1

Psalm 32:1-6

Psalm 54:1-4

Psalm 61:1, 5

Psalm 66:20

Psalm 84:8

Psalm 102:1, 2, 17

Proverbs 15:8

Proverbs 15:29

Psalm 28:6-7

James 5:15, 16

1 Peter 3:12

1 Peter 3:7

Colossians 3:1-3

Matthew 7:7-11

John 15:16; 16:23-24, 26

John 17:23

- C. The Scriptures consistently and repeatedly promise that God hears the prayer of the righteous. Who are the righteous? (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)

Are any able to please God apart from Christ? (Read Galatians 2:16; 3:6, 7, 11, 26, 27; Romans 3:10, 12, 23, 24.)

What does this mean to those who *pray* for help in a time of trouble?

- D. Are there sins or behavior that could cause a believer's prayers to be hindered?

- E. What sorts of things may happen as we persist and persevere in prayer?

- F. Is prayer an integral part of the Christian's life? (Read Acts 8:22, 24; Romans 8:26; 2 Corinthians 13:7, 9; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1; 1 Timothy 2:8; James 5:13, 14, 16.)