

Episode 13 God in Disguise

My wife Pam and I have spent our adult lives praying for our children. When they were young, we prayed that they would come to know Jesus. We prayed that they would dedicate their lives to loving and serving Him. Guess what? We still pray for them every day! Have you ever prayed and prayed and prayed about some issue and finally just gave up? One of the most interesting stories that Jesus told His disciples is found in Luke's Gospel and is sometimes referred to as 'The Parable of the Unjust Judge.' Luke begins with these words: 'One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.' Jesus doesn't want us to give up, either! Let's listen to the story together:

"There was a judge in a certain city," He said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'" Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even HE rendered a just decision in the end. So, don't you think God will surely give justice to His chosen people who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? (Luke 18:2-7)

In Matthew 7, Jesus famously tells the disciples, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." The New Living Translation says it more accurately: "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you." Surely, God wants us to keep on asking! In today's passage we read about a widow who was in a dispute and as a widow, she was powerless on her own to get justice. She went to a judge who didn't care; he didn't care about God; he didn't care about people; he didn't care about that woman, and he didn't care about justice. He wanted the woman to leave him alone...but she wouldn't! That judge was her only hope. Today's passage reminds us that unlike this judge, God does care about people, and He does care about justice. Like the widow, we all face circumstances where God Himself is our only hope. Remember the lead-in to the story? "Jesus told them that they should always pray and never give up." If we see God as our only hope, you and I can pray and never give up. Today, I want to encourage you to keep on praying. Keep on asking. Keep on seeking. Keep on knocking—and don't give up!

That's what Jesus wants you to do! And when we do what *Jesus* wants you to do—that always brings Good News!

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