

## How Fear Gives Way to Faith



**READ:** John 1:1-11

One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.

<sup>2</sup>“There was a judge in a certain city,” he said, “who neither feared God nor cared about people. <sup>3</sup> A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.’

<sup>4</sup> The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t fear God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> 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!’”

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge.

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

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**For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”**

2 Timothy 1:7

*“Prayer is the nerve that moves the muscle of God.”* Frederick Beuchner

**REFLECT:** What are some of the requests you are making to God where it seems like He is not listening? How do you handle that?

The Psalmist’s cry...

‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?  
Why are you so far away when I groan for help?  
Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.  
Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.  
Psalm 22:1-2 (NLT)

The Psalmist’s resolve...

But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!”  
Psalm 22:19

**Q: Are you aware of the cry of your heart?**

(write out any thoughts that come to you...)



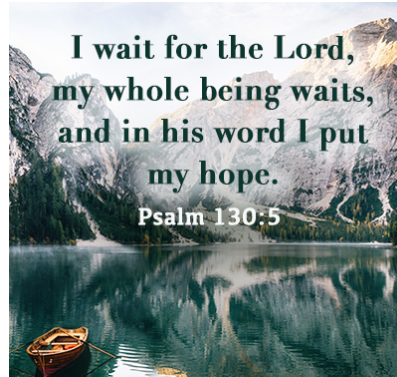
**Why did Jesus feel it was important to create this comparison of the unjust judge versus the God who created justice?**

*“Listen, my friend! Your helplessness is your best prayer. It calls from your heart to the heart of God with greater effect than all your uttered pleas. He hears it from the very moment that you are seized with helplessness, and He becomes actively engaged at once in hearing and answering the prayer of your helplessness.”*

Ole Hallesby

**RESPOND:** What habits of prayer will help me most?

“Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage,  
And He will strengthen your heart;  
Wait, I say, on the Lord”. Psalm 27:14



Mother Teresa's Daily Prayer

Dear Jesus,  
Help me to spread  
Thy fragrance everywhere I go.  
Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love.  
Penetrate and possess my whole so utterly  
that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine.  
Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with  
may feel Thy presence in my soul.  
Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus.  
Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as You shine,  
so to shine as to be a light to others.

The Lord's Prayer (that he taught his disciples)

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

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*"Those persons who know the deep peace of God,  
the unfathomable peace that passeth all understanding,  
are always men and women of much prayer."*

R.A. Torrey

**Respond & Apply:** Individual & Small Group Discussion Guide

Oswald Chambers said, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer *is* the greater work... Prayer is the battle; it is a matter of indifference where you are. Whichever way God engineers circumstances, the duty is to pray. Never allow the thought — "I am of no use where I am"; because you certainly can be of no use where you are not. Wherever God has dumped you down in circumstances, pray to Him all the time."

What are the hardest things for you to hand over to God at this time?

How has giving God your fears helped (or hindered) you in your trust of Him?

Is your faith in God decreasing your fears at this time? Why or why not?

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**Next SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**LOCATION CHANGE:  
Izaak Walton Cabin**

937 7 AV NE

**Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am**



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**Next Week:** How Trust Replaces Worry (Matthew 6:25-34)

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*NewDay Envisioning Our Ministry Values*

- 1. We are a community that has a passion to serve others.**
- 2. We are a community that longs for deeper life relationships With God and others.**
- 3. We are passionate about investing in children, youth, and families.**
- 4. We are a people who have a desire to be led by and experience the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life.**

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