

Faith in the Home

Sermon Notes for the Kiddos (and everybody else)
19th Sunday After Pentecost Luke 18:1-8
"Welcoming God, Not an Annoyed God."

We have all been there. We have all been annoyed by someone's persistence. We have all wanted to get someone out of our hair. You may also be able to think of a time when you felt like you had to be persistent to get what you needed or wanted. You knew that you'd be seen as annoying, and yet you were willing to go there to get what you needed.

That is the beauty about Jesus' "Parable of the Persistent Widow." There are times where we can relate to the widow in the story, and there are times when we can relate to the unjust judge (in the sense of caving to someone's persistence to avoid further annoyance).

To sum up the story, Jesus tells of a widow who needed justice against her adversary. The judge was described as someone who "did not fear God or respect man." This is a judge who is self-serving, wicked, and yet powerful. The woman is refused justice again and again. Finally, the judge gives the woman what she wants because he is annoyed and wants her to stop. Jesus then says, "Here what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to His elect, who cry to Him day and night? Will He not delay long over them? I tell you He will give them justice speedily." Be persistent in prayer to God and He will answer speedily!

Jesus made the point clear that our righteous God invites to pray persistently. He wants us to go to Him and trust that He will act quickly. He is not annoyed at us when we pray. He welcomes it! Jesus even goes on to ask, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, (FYI Jesus is both the Son of Man and the Son of God.) will He find faith on earth?"

We can see by this rhetorical question that Jesus doesn't want us to lose faith on account of our sinful impatience. He is urging our trust in Him and our faithfulness in prayer. God sent His Son to die for us. His Son conquered death for us. He paid our debt.

Furthermore, He invites us to act as His dear children, and promises to meet all of our needs. The hymn, "What a Friend We have in Jesus," sums it up perfectly: "We should never be discouraged. Take it the Lord in prayer." He is not annoyed at persistent prayer. He welcomes it!

So how do we teach these things to our kids?

1. If I were to ask your kids, "Does your mommy and daddy pray to God a lot?" What would their answer be? Remember as parents we should never to seek to look righteous, but if we are genuinely working on our own relationships with God, this will have a genuine and positive effect on our children's faith and their practice of it as well. We are all Christ's disciples, and we are called to disciple our kids.
2. Pray with your kids. It is good to do this at bed time and meal times, but if you can find times to pray with them throughout the day as well, that is also beneficial.
3. Our goal as Christians should be to be to pray to God as if our lives depend on it. Our stomach depends on food, and our lungs depend on oxygen. Our very essence depends on praying in the name of Jesus.

Has this been helpful? Why/why not? Do you have any suggestions? Pastor Joel would really appreciate your feedback! Please contact him at luckemeyerj@gmail.com Thanks!