



THE CHRIST LIFE "Never Give Up!" Luke 18:1-14

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A casual reading of the parable of the widow and the judge might suggest that Jesus was saying if we go on asking God to do what we want He will give in eventually and we will get our own way! A careful study presents a very different picture.

I. Find the Point of the Parable.

- A. Luke informs us up front – "men ought always to pray and not give up."
- B. Does that mean we should never give up praying – OR –
- C. Does it mean we should never give up – and prayer will help?
- D. I believe the parable teaches the latter point – it teaches us "Never give up!"
- E. Reasons for this interpretation:
 1. "Give up" (Gk. *Enkakein* from *Kakos* = Evil) so don't give in to evil.
 - a. See 2 Cor. 4:1-2 – Don't give up – and compromise principle.
 - b. See 2 Cor. 4:16 – Don't give up – and focus on temporal.
 - c. See Gal. 6:8-9 – Don't give up – and revert to fleshly living.
 2. Jesus' question must be factored in – "Will He find faith on earth?"
 - a. See Jesus' predictions recorded in Mt. 24.
 - b. See Paul's predictions recorded in 2 Tim. 3.
 3. Larger context is about the "uncertain certainty" of Christ's return.
 - a. Pharisees ask "When," disciples ask "Where." 17:20 & 37
 - b. No answer – "uncertain certainty" calls for faithfulness.

II. See the Place of Prayer.

- A. Is God like the unjust judge? Of course not!
- B. Is the church like the poverty stricken, defenseless, friendless widow? No!
- C. We have ready access, a Risen Advocate and a Just Judge. (See Heb 4:14-16.)
- D. Will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones? – Of course He will!
- E. Are His chosen ones the self righteous or the humbly dependent? 18:9-14

III. Check Out a Case Study (Acts 4:1f).

- A. Were Peter and John doing what they had been told to do? YES.
- B. Did the authorities treat them justly? NO.
- C. Did they "give up? NO.
- D. Did they pray? They certainly did! See what happened. Acts 4:24f

Points to ponder: When you're tempted to give up look up, suck it up and step it up!