**April 18, 2021**

**Going deeper in Luke 18:1-8**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Pharisees have asked Jesus about when the Kingdom of God will come. He has told them that it will come unexpectedly and that is right in front of them. The breaking of the Kingdom of God is taking place in and through Jesus and particularly His death and corresponding resurrection. Jesus turns to teaching about prayer particularly as it relates to coming of the Son of Man (Jesus).

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

1 Then Jesus told them this parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 “In a certain town there was a judge who did not fear God or respect what people thought. 3 A widow from that same town kept coming to him asking, ‘Give me justice from my accuser.’ 4 For some time he refused, but finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God or care about people, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice so she won’t wear me out by continually coming back.’ 6 Listen to what the unjust judge said. 7 Will not God bring justice for His chosen ones who cry out to day and night? Won’t he patiently respond to them? 8 He will make sure they get justice quickly. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. Why do you think continual prayer is so important to Jesus?

2. Why does Jesus use the image of an unjust judge rather than a just judge?

3. Why does the judge grant her request? If the judge had been just and compassionate how might have his response been different? What does that suggest about the answers to prayers that might come from a just and compassionate God?

4. What do you think Jesus means by “really find faith?” What does the parable suggest about the nature of real faith?

5. Can you think of a time when you kept on praying for something? If you are in a small group share that with the group and what happened.

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for His patience.

\*Let Jesus know that you are grateful that He cares about everything you will face today.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the faith, power, and patience to persevere in prayer.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The widow did not earn the grace of the judge. He gave her what she asked for because she faithfully persisted and trusted in His power to make things right. The Lord is so much more compassionate and just than this judge. Will you persist in your faith and trust His power this week?