Series of “New” - The Heart of Desperation

*Luke 18:1-8*

*Sang W. Sur*

*Lord’s Day, August 21, 2011*

As a result of this sermon, I want people to seek after God through their lives, be desperate for Him and desire Him more. Seek His strength and not our own in all our dealings

*Luke 18*

*The Parable of the Persistent Widow*

 *1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’*

 *4 “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”*

 *6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”*

***Praise the Lord!***

American Missionary in China – because people were desperate for the Lord, they are getting healed, they are experiencing God, they are joyful even when things are not going well – why we don’t get that in America, do we?

We need life transformation – there’s no point in having a worship service once a week! Jesus didn’t come to earth to teach us to have service once a week! We need a life change

So I believe God wants to bring something new here, into our church – a transformation that starts from within, not to be something once a week, but a total life change.

**PRAY**

Prayer is a way we speak to God, it is how we seek after Him.

How do you seek after Him?

**How should we seek after God? Desperately, as if He is the only one that can help. Cry out to Him day and night.**

Let us seek after God to show His power and glory by constant prayer and constant seeking Him.

Tell the story

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Who is telling the story: Jesus

Why: That people should always pray and not give up

People in the story

Judge - does not fear God nor does He care what people think; judge is someone with power, ability to condemn you or free you; but he was someone that didn't fear anything -- he was all about the law

Widow - seeks justice from the judge (could be some smuggler demanding taxes when she doesn't have any, or could be that this person is preventing her from getting a job, etc)

The widow recognized the judge as one having power – do we see God as one with the power to change? (examples, one that can direct this ministry to be fruitful? One that can transform your life’s situations? One that can change you?)

After being bothered much, the judge goes on to grant her request to stop being harassed

If the unjust judge does that, how much more would God do this for His beloved children? Yes, He will do amazingly

v.8 - does anyone have that kind of faith?

Over time, does anyone maintain that kind of faith?

When we have all that we need, will we still have this kind of faith to be persistent

We tend to forget that God is the one that provides, that God is our Savior, our protector, One who sustains us – we tend to think that we have good things on our own merits!

We ought to be desperate like sheep – wolves everywhere, need food to eat, need clean water – I need a Savior.

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Revelations 3 – thinks he is rich, but is not – they will all be stripped away from him

Rev 3:17

17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

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Go after the giver, not the gift

If my son only asked for toys, but didn't seek relations with his mother, how sad she would be

Wouldn't the mother give more to the son that is her delight? We should seek the giver and live to please Him.

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Persistence comes out of desperation

We ought to be persistent to go after God, to seek after Him, not the gifts He gives -- but after Him, who He is.

Like Jacob struggling with God in Genesis (32) -- we ought to struggle with God for His blessing, His presence, His guidance, His walking with us!

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Solomon asked for wisdom -- Wisdom equates with Holy Spirit, our guide in our journey! -- He did not seek wealth or honor or long life, but He wanted to have the guidance of God, or to be with God. Let that be our one desire -- to be with God, to walk with God, to partner with Him in all we do with the mindset of God.

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Let's think bigger than our church, what can we do to replace the way we normally live? What kinds of ministries can we have?

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***Praise the Lord!***

American Missionary in China – only desperate people can experience God

Total life transformation – not once-a-week show

**PRAY**

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Prayer is a way we speak to God, it is how we seek after Him.

**How should we seek after God? Desperately, as if He is the only one that can help. Cry out to Him day and night.**

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In today’s story, Jesus tells us to always pray and not give up

Synopsis of story (and come up with modern-day examples of what kind of injustices she may be experiencing)

Points:

1. We fail to see God as powerful (we are self-sufficient)
2. We ought to be desperate like sheep – wolves everywhere, need food to eat, need clean water – I need a Savior.
3. But instead, we take things for granted, and it goes to verse 8 (anyone have faith?)

Rev 3:17 - You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

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Go after the giver, not the gift (my son asking for toys – does he love the mommy or the toy?)

Persistence comes out of desperation (we should do this to go after God like Jacob did in Gen 32)

Solomon did same – he asked for wisdom (Holy Spirit) than riches, long life, etc)

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(End)The beggar receives sight because of his desperation – Jesus called it faith (Mark 10:46-52)