The Heart of Desperation

*Luke 18:1-8*

*Sang W. Sur*

*Lord’s Day, August 21, 2011*

***Praise the Lord!***

*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?”*

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?

Subject:

How should we pray?

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.

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

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.

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

How do you seek after Him?

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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)

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

Persistence comes out of desperation

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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 -- 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.