

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Luke 18:1-8

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

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

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 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? 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?"



REFLECT

Luke's Gospel is sometimes called a 'Gospel of Prayer'. We see Jesus praying in this Gospel more than in the others and he gives more teaching about prayer. Here we have a totally corrupt judge who doesn't care what either other people or God thinks. There is no reason for him to take notice of the widow. Without a husband, she has no source of income and no status. However, she will not give up in her search for justice and eventually, just for some peace and quiet, the judge gives in. Our loving God is not like that judge – so we really can trust God to answer our calls.

Jesus' final sentence in this passage gives us a challenge. It's easy to pray when things are going well, but have we got the resilience to pray when everything is going wrong? Luke's audience were facing persecution. Will they continue to trust and have faith in Jesus – and will we? God knows what we need before we ask, but by continually praying we are growing closer to God. What are the deepest needs in my heart and mind that I want to bring to God? Do we keep on praying, even when it seems God is just not listening? Can we trust in God's love?

LET US PRAY

Lord, please listen to me.

Give me the resilience to keep on praying even when I am not sure you are there. Amen.

Amen

MISSION

Jesus wants us to know that God is not like that judge. God loves us and always listens when we pray.

1. Pray Every Day:

- This week, try to say a short prayer every day. You can thank God, ask for help, or just tell God about your day.

2. Act with Kindness:

The widow didn't give up, and God wants us to do the same when we show love and kindness.

- Try helping someone this week, even if it's hard – like sharing, saying sorry, or including someone left out.