

Keep on (Truckin') Prayin'

Intro. Which of these would we say our prayer is more like:

- ✓ *Texting* - a little in the morning. A little in the afternoon. A little at night. A lot of bits of nothing much.
- ✓ *Instagram or Tik Tok or Snapchat*: quickly there and then not there.
- ✓ *Email*: longer but only a one-way conversation.
- ✓ *Voice mail*: “Sorry, Lord, I can’t talk now; leave a message and we can play tag for a day or two.”
- ✓ *Coffee (or a glass of wine or a beer)* with a friend: a conversation, one on one in a comfortable place.

How to pray is the subject of the gospel story.

I. Lawyers and Pharisees get to sit this one out for a change. The Lord told stories with great descriptions. The judge does not fear God and does not respect people. He is obviously the bad guy. The other character in the story is one of the most vulnerable people in that society; a woman whose husband has died and, according to Jewish law should be cared for by the judge. She is the good one. We don't know what the issue is but it is important to the woman. The judge might have some other plan for what is rightfully hers. But she is persistent. When he leaves his home, she is there. When he goes to the court, there she is. When he eats lunch, she's there again. He finally decides to give her a favorable ruling. Not because he suddenly had a conversion, but because he was afraid she might literally punch him in the eye or ruin his

reputation in the community. Her consistent “prayer” for justice was answered. This is the example for disciples to pray: day and night without giving up. Ask for the right things. Not to do well on the presentation or the test we didn’t prepare for.

That’s [saving-our-butt-prayer;] barely prayer at all.

Concl. How consistent is our prayer really? We have great intentions to pray every day, but there are always a lot of things – *and people* – that need our attention: work, various practices, scouts, binge watching those shows. Maybe we need to do for prayer what we do for those things – *put it on the schedule*. Write it on the calendar on the refrigerator or family bulletin board and our phone calendar. Set an alarm to remind us. If prayer is on the calendar for eight o’clock, set the reminder for fifteen minutes to give us time to finish what we are doing and move

to a prayer place. It might be nice to have the same times for prayer every day, but our schedules change daily. Look at the next day’s calendar the night before and decide where to schedule an appointment with the Lord. We do that for dentists’ and doctors’ appointments, why not for someone who is a bit more important. No disrespect meant for the dentists and doctors present. **Consider this gospel as a reminder for our next appointment with God.** **Missing an appointments with the Lord is likely to cost us more than the usual office visit and.** **The Lord’s inference in the last line of the gospel is clear: no prayer? No faith. We SAY we can do better in our prayer. This week what are we going to DO about it?**

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