



IN THE MEANTIME

LUKE 18:1-8: THE PERSISTENT WIDOW (AKA THE UNJUST JUDGE)

“And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart...”

Revelation 6:10

*They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, **how long** before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”*

4 QUESTIONS FOR THE “MEANTIME”

1) Have I _____ God with persistence & faith? (Luke 18:1, 3, 8)

2 Peter 3:8-9 *But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

“I thank God for not giving me what I thought I wanted and giving me what I didn’t know I needed.”

-Unknown

Hebrews 11:6 *“Without faith it is impossible to please Him.”*

2) Has this longing created something _____ in me?

James 4:1-2 [1] *What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? [2] You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.*

“PAIN THAT IS NOT TRANSFORMED IS TRANSMITTED.”

3) What is my _____?

James 4:3 *“You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.”*

“When we want something that bad, it’s easy to mistake what we truly need for the thing we really want.”

-Bob Goff

4) How do we not waste the _____ (or the _____)?

Luke 22:42 *“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”*

DIGGING DEEPER

Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.

- 1) What are the “synoptic gospels?” Which gospel stands out?
- 2) Carefully re-read the parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8) What stood out to you as you this time as you read?
- 3) Honestly describe your prayer life (from non-existent, to inconsistent to insistent).
- 4) Do you approach God in prayer with both faith and persistence?
- 5) In what ways have you seen “unfulfilled desire” create something unhealthy in people.
- 6) Talk about times when you have had poor motives in prayer.
- 7) Read James 4:1-10. What do you take away from this passage?
- 8) Share those prayer requests with the group that God has not yet answered.
- 9) Pray for each other.