

Recap of 12/1/19 (Luke 18:1-14):

1. In Luke 18:1-14, Jesus teaches two parables about prayer. A parable is a story which teaches a spiritual truth. Jesus encourages and challenges us to a life of consistent faith seen in confident prayer.
2. In verses 1-8 Jesus calls for us to be persistent in prayer; and in verses 9-14 He calls for humility in prayer.
3. The passage teaches two simple but profound truths:
 - we must keep asking (and not grow weary, become discouraged or give up)
 - we must be conscious of our helpless condition; we must pray with a sense of our helplessness apart from God.
4. "Real prayer is prayed in an attitude of what the Puritans called importunity, which is the condition of being troublesome or persistent because of a deep sense of urgency. It means being frightened into crying out for help...Prayer isn't an announcement of personal righteousness, but a cry for help that rests in the righteousness of another." (Tripp)
5. The One Year Study Bible suggests the following about prayer: "When you pray, pray for everyone you know, believers and unbelievers. Pray that God will have mercy on individuals and families who don't yet believe or trust Him. Pray for Christians that they will grow in their faith and example. Pray for government leaders that they will lead in a way that honors God. Pray, above all, that the name of Christ will be honored and esteemed by everyone. Our earnest prayers can have powerful results (James 5:16)."
6. Do you ever weary of praying or get discouraged about unanswered prayer, Luke 18:1-14 is for us. We must always pray and not give up, because: we are needy; we have Someone who cares, who is not indifferent to our needs; and we are helpless on our own.