

22 Feb 2015: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: **Don't Stop Praying!**

Scripture Text: Luke 18: 1-8

1. In this passage, the Lord Jesus uses a parable (earthly story with heavenly meaning) to teach this truth – always to pray and not to faint.

2. We pray because we need to. The word “ought” in verse one has the idea of being necessary. We must pray, at all times (always). It is not something we can do without. Prayer is an expression of our reliance and dependence. If we don't pray, we are saying that we don't need God. Therefore prayer is both essential and important. We should be in the spirit of prayer constantly. Churches lack power because they lack prayer. We will be discouraged (faint) if we do not pray.

3. In this parable, the judge is probably an unbeliever. He is unjust and corrupted. The widow is probably poor and seeking for justice. She persisted even though the judge is unjust. She knew she had a great need which only the judge can address. She took great effort to make the judge give in. The judge only helped her because of her persistence.

4. The Lord Jesus is arguing from the lesser to the greater. If an unjust judge will relent, what more the Judge of all judges. God will hear and vindicate His elect. He is far greater than this judge. He is just and powerful. He also cares for His people (1 Pet 5:7). Our cares are also His. Why then do we not pray to Him? God wants to and will deliver His children. He will never be too early or too late. Christians must therefore be characterized by prayer.

5. The lack of persistent prayer can be seen as a sign of the end times since the context of chapter 17 is speaking of the kingdom of God. Few will exercise faith in constant prayer (Jas 5:16). Persistent prayer must be in faith and according to His will. It is our duty and privilege to pray. Will Jesus find us praying when He returns?