

Persistence is the Key to Prayer

29th Week of Ordinary Time – October 16, 2016 – Luke 18:1-8

Jesus teaches us this weekend that persistence is the key to prayer. The specific concern Jesus has is that many times when we set out in prayer, we have this idea that our prayers will be answered in a timely way that meets our hopes and dreams. What Jesus is describing to his disciples is the truth that prayer is not a magic wand we wave to get our way. Prayer is the discipline which allows us to seek God's will in all things.

Jesus tells the story about a judge and the widow who seeks his **"just decision"**. Jesus says that this judge is basically one who has no respect for God or others. Yet, the widow persists in her desire to seek what is rightfully hers. **"For a long time the judge was unwilling but eventually he thought, "While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me."**

Jesus says, **"Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily."** In other words, if persistence works with one who is dishonest in this life...Will not our persistence in prayer be answered in time by God Almighty?

The one thing Jesus asks his disciples at the end of this week's gospel has to do with the importance of persistence. **"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"** Jesus knows that we humans are an instant gratification species. We want what we want and we want it now. Life does not work that way. God does not work that way. Without persistence, we run the risk of losing faith. This is the warning he is giving the disciples this week. It is only in persistence that we will see the fruits of our prayer life. It is only in persistence that we will see the Second Coming of Christ.

We are invited this week to practice persistence, so that, we are ready and waiting for Christ when he comes again.

Blessings!


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