

## “Don’t Lose Heart” (1-12-25)

**Introduction:** Jesus told a parable to those who were weary that they would not lose heart . . .

### **Luke 18:1 (ESV)**

[1] And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

### **Luke 18:2-5 (ESV)**

[2] He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. [3] And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’ [4] For a while he refused, but afterward, he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, [5] yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.’”

### **Luke 18:6-8 (ESV)**

[6] And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. [7] And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? [8] I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

### **1) “Ought Always to Pray” (Luke 18:1)**

**Always** - ever, at all times

“**Always**” is used in the context of prayer throughout NT - for example, Paul in many of his letters tells the church that he is always praying for them: Romans, Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Philemon . . .

### **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (ESV)**

[2] We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Note:** We are called to be “Always” consistent in prayer. See how prayer correlates with Faith, Hope, & Love!

Jesus knew the Father heard his prayers “always” but for the sake of the people to have faith, he declared this aloud when he raised Lazarus from the dead . . .

### **John 11:39-42 (ESV)**

[39] Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” [40] Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” [41] So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. [42] **I knew that you always hear me**, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”

Jesus “**always**” lives to make intercession for us!

### **Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)**

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**Application:** Our tendency can be to become weary in prayer, we may struggle with “always” praying but what Jesus shows us about our Heavenly Father is that he “always” hears! So let’s draw near and lean on the one who is always interceding for us!

## 2) “Not Lose Heart” (Luke 18:1)

**Lose Heart** (Faint, Weary) - utterly spiritless, to be wearied out, exhausted. To lose one's courage. In the NT, generally, to be fainthearted, to faint or despond in view of trial, difficulty

### 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)

[16] So **we do not lose heart**. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. [17] For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, [18] as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

### Jeremiah 31:25-26 (ESV)

[25] For I will satisfy the **weary** soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish.” [26] At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep was pleasant to me.

Jesus got away in prayer to find rest . . .

### Mark 1:35 (ESV)

And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

Jesus invited his disciples to do the same . . .

### Mark 6:31-32 (ESV)

[31] And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. [32] And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves.

### Psalms 32:6-7 (ESV)

[6] Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. [7] You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah

**Psalms 63** - A Good Reflection on Seeking God when we are “faint” and “weary” (translated “thirsty” here)

### 3) “Will He find Faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)

**Have Faith** - Note the woman’s faith equals persistence!

#### **Luke 18:5 (ESV)**

yet because this widow keeps **bothering** me, I will give her justice, so that she will not **beat me down** by her continual coming.

#### **Luke 18:5 (NKJV)**

yet because this widow **troubles** me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she **weary** me.

- **Bothering / troubles** - a combination of 2 words:

to reach forth, to show or present oneself

to strike. Beating, wailing, grief with beating the breast, lamentation, intense labor united with trouble or toil

- **Beat me down / weary** - To strike under the eyes, beat the face black and blue, give a black eye.

#### **Boxing Example as a Picture of being Faithfully Persistent:**

**Mike Tyson** - needs to win early (heavy hitter, no stamina)

**Muhammad Ali** - “rope a dope” vs. George Foreman in the rumble in the jungle (1974) - He let Foreman wear himself out throwing punches / he blocked them, absorbed them and leaned on the ropes for rest. Then later in the fight (8th round) he counterpunched and knocked him out!

We are to keep at it, in the midst of the fight . . .

#### **2 Corinthians 4:7-9 (ESV)**

[7] But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

[8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

#### **2 Corinthians 4:10 (ESV)**

always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

**Conclusion:** Let’s always pray, that we not lose heart, and as we keep fighting we find that faith is growing in us, as we receive the life of Jesus, even in our present suffering!

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