



# Daily Reflections

**November 17, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 18: 1-8**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' 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.'" The Lord said, "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. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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## Our Scripture Reflection

Today's wonderful Gospel reading serves as a lesson on persistence in prayer. The poor widow in our story will not give up on the disinterested judge. She

knows he has the power to grant what she needs. And he does. How much more our God who loves us and knows our needs will respond to the pleas of His faithful people. The question is however...Will we remain faithful to God???

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## **Food for your Journey**

I have a 7-year-old granddaughter by marriage named Madeline. She is blond, skinny and tall for her age. ...

What I want Madeline to know is that the best thing about prayer is the relationship itself. Whether or not she gets what she asks for, I want her to keep asking. I want her to pester God the same way she pesters her mother, thinking of 12 different ways to plead her case. I want her to long for God the same way she longs for her father, holding fast to him even when his chair is empty.

When she complains that none of this does any good, I am going to ask her to tell me the difference between how she feels while she is praying versus how she feels when she thinks about giving up. If I am lucky, she is going to tell me that she feels more alive when she is praying, and that is when I will tell her the story about the persistent widow ... .

-Barbara Brown Taylor, "Bothering God," Christian Century, March 24-31, 1999, 356.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Father, May we never grow frustrated and weak in our faith, especially when it is tested. May we always know, first and foremost, that You care for us, You want only what is best for us. May we always trust in You. Amen