October 20, 2019

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?"

Our Scripture Reflection

The widow was a nobody in the culture of her day. With the death of her husband she had lost her means of support. Some considered her cursed for having been widowed. The powerful judge had neither love nor time for her but she would not let that be the end of her story. She would not stop asking for help. Her perseverance is eventually rewarded. The message for us? Don’t give up on God. He, unlike the judge, is just. Why does He seem to make us wait so long at times? Isaiah 55:8-9 says it best: “My ways are not your ways, my thoughts are not your thoughts, says the Lord.”
Food for your Journey

The following saying hangs framed on my office wall: "Do one thing each day that scares you."
Standing at my office door, I know the challenges hidden in innocent-looking stacks of paper, a computer that will deliver e-mails (pertinent and not), and a keyboard that won't enter a book manuscript without my aid. Some days it takes courage just to walk in.
Yesterday I called a disgruntled woman. I was scared because I knew it wasn't going to be pretty. But it was the right thing to do. "Okay, Lord, this is my one-thing-that-scares-me opportunity for today. As I lifted the receiver, I whispered, "I'm depending on you."

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, You love me and watch over me at all times. You know everything about me. When I find myself frustrated with my prayer, help me to persevere. You are always there for me. May I grow in my ability to always be there for You. Amen