

B. We cannot be isolationist in practice but must look about even in what may seem to be dubious places. Be positive in the invitation and since you cannot refute all the unreasonable rejections....continue inviting and urging. The banquet hall will be filled by those who respond and come in the garment of righteousness that the Lord provides.

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MESSAGE # 6: THE PLEADING WIDOW....BE FERVENT IN PRAYER.

Biblical Passage: Luke 18:108 (Luke 11:5-13)

I. Introducing the Parable:

Both of these parables teach the importance of being fervent in prayer. I am not about to suggest some sure-fire prayer formularies but this matter of calling on God in sincerity and earnestness seems to be very important. You will find supportive passages in John 14-16 and find the examples of the Lord's as well. Fervency in Luke 11 is based on the readiness of God to hear and fervency in Luke 18 is based on God's willingness to deal justly. If we have both of those things in mind we have no hesitation nor fear to call on the Lord. And the humanitarian aspect is just this: others have no greater need than those who will seek the face of the Lord in their behalf. Whether it is with regard to witnessing in the Gospel or meeting the needs of life our interest in others should move us to prayer rapidly and often. Luke 18 does not suggest we will wear God out or force him to do something. It stresses the fact that we do not give up and in time He will answer in a way we can understand and accept.

II. The point of the parable:

Be fervent in prayer. If the cause is certainly just (Luke 18) do not hesitate to call on the Lord in dead earnest. We do not understand all that the Lord does or will do but we are not told to understand, we are told to pray. It is the alternative to giving up. (Luke 18:1) Be careful about "prayer rules" (other than those things that are clear in the Scripture) Your prayers will bring blessing to you and to others about you.