



KEEP PRAYING THAT YOU MAY NOT LOSE FAITH!

Sermon | Luke 18:1-8 | Pentecost 19



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Keep Praying that You May Not Lose Faith!

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ. Amen.

This morning's sermon is drawn from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. May the Lord, who is always faithful to us, grant us the spirit of prayer, that we may abide in His Word and Sacraments, and be preserved unto eternal life. **Amen.**

What if I told you that the moment you step out of the Church today, your faith might begin to slip? Or better yet, let me say it plainly: "*We* might lose our faith!"

You'd probably ask me, "why would you say that?"

Let me explain—I'm not making this up.

I am simply paraphrasing the words of Jesus Himself, the ones we just heard in the Gospel reading. I can read them again. Luke 18 and verse 8; Jesus says, “*Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?*”

So, you see, it’s Jesus Himself who warns us, that it’s ridiculously easy to lose faith in Him.

And the Master Storyteller illustrates this with a parable.

Jesus paints a picture of a widow, someone with an adversary, and pleading for justice. Luke doesn’t give us any demographic details about the disciples who were with Jesus in that hour. And this leaves us to speculate: Were there widows among them? Was Jesus speaking directly to a widow?

But here’s what we do know—Jesus told this parable to *all* His disciples. Both men, and women, married or widowed.

And He carefully crafted this parable, using the choicest words and phrases. So, the word '*widow*' here wasn't meant to point to a specific person, but to describe a '*condition*'—a state of emotional, social, and sometimes economic implications.

And just so you know, the Greek word '*widow*' carries the idea of being '*deficient*' –of *lacking* something essential.

In that sense, the word '*widow*' was applied metaphorically to every disciple listening to Jesus at that hour. For,

- Many had left their homes and families to follow Him. They carried emotional deficiency!
- Some had walked away from their sinful lives but still bore the weight of social stigma. They had social deficiency!

- A few others had given up wealth and comfort; and had economic deficiency.

And their adversaries were many. Their own family members, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, their own sinful lives, the pressures and the problems of this world. And above all, the Chief adversary, the Devil himself.

So, let me ask: *How different are we?*

Can you name anyone who doesn't carry some kind of deficiency? Anyone who doesn't face an adversary? Can we honestly make a bold claim that we're untouched by worldly pain?

So, what do we do with our deficiencies?

How do we respond when our emotional gaps feel too wide to bridge?

When we're left hurt by our friends, family members or colleagues.

What do we do when social rejection cuts deep—may be because of our personal stance on a political issue, a social concern, or even biblical truth.

Some of us may feel the weight of financial strain pressing harder than usual. And then, in the midst of it all, the Chief Adversary—the Devil Himself—whispers, *“You’re alone in this!”*

And in a way, that *whisper* feels true.

Some of us try hard to ignore our pain. We bury it under distractions, hoping it’ll all go away with time. Others try to fix it ourselves, leaning on our *own* strength.

And to be honest, some of us just grow quiet. We keep our struggles to ourselves. We start praying less.

How easy it is to lose faith in our God who is just and merciful, and always working for our good.

But He is equally concerned that we might wander away or drift from Him.

Therefore, Jesus *gives us* this parable. He *doesn't leave us* in our wretched, painful, *deficient* state.

He gives us the example of a *widow* who was so persistent in her pleading, that even a wicked judge of unrighteousness finally resolves to vindicate her.

And Jesus draws a sharp contrast between the wicked judge and our merciful God.

- That judge—unrighteous in every way—had no interest in the widow. She came to him pleading, again and again, and he ignored her.

But Jesus?

He comes after us. Each one of us. To bring us home. To make his fold whole. One plus ninety-nine!

- The wicked judge finally decided to act—not out of compassion, but for his own personal ease.
And Jesus? He chose to avenge us when Eve and Adam fell prey to the Devil. Jesus took on our flesh to save us from our sinful and deficient state.
- The unrighteous judge didn't want to be bothered by the persistent cries of the widow—he feared she might beat him down.
But Jesus? He came down from heaven to redeem us. He took the beatings, the bruises, the lashes, and He died for each one of us. To freely give us His body and blood, that nourish us now and for eternal life.

So, what does Jesus want us to see in the state of this 'widow', and our own state of deficiency?

Not her strength. Nor our own strength.

Not her virtue, nor our own ability.

He wants us to see her *need*. Her *dependence*. Her *deficiency*. She had no advocate. No one to leverage or fight her case.

And this is what Jesus commends in us. A posture of faith that relies on persistent pleadings offered through prayer.

Because prayer is the cry of the deficient, the weary, the overlooked, and the distressed.

He teaches us to have faith that does not cease to cry out—day and night—to Almighty God.

Jesus comforts us by being our advocate, praying for us *and* with us to God the Father.

And Jesus promises us that He will *bring* justice to us speedily, without delay. As it is written for our benefit, "*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count*

slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” [2 Pet.3:9]

So, let us not lose heart.

If you feel weak—pray!

If you feel unworthy—pray!

If you feel like you’ve failed—pray!

Keep praying that you may not lose faith!

And when the Son of Man comes, may He find faith on the earth!

Now may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Him. **Amen.**

Vijay Samuel