

SERMON NOTES

“Pray—As a First Resort” | Pastor Matthew Ruttan July 26, 2020 – Westminster Church, Barrie – Live Stream

This sermon explores Luke 18:1-8. Make sure to have your Bible with you. Don't be afraid to take notes of insights you have about the text. Follow along with this sheet to more deeply engage with Jesus' teaching.

1. Ethelfrith was the pagan Saxon king of Northumbria in the 600's. He had invaded Wales and was on the verge of battle. When he saw a group of unarmed monks praying for the success of the Welsh people he said: "Attack them _____!"

2. How is your prayer life going?

- Really well
- Fine
- Not very well

3. In Luke 18:1 Jesus tells us the purpose of this parable. What is it?

4. In verse 3, Jesus says that a widow comes to the unjust judge and asks for justice against her adversary. Why do you think Jesus chose a widow to make his point?

5. In verse 7 we learn that God will in fact bring about justice for _____.

6. Lay bare your _____ and _____ before God.

7. Ethic professor Roger Olson said: "The more prosperous and educated we are, the more likely we are to substitute our own cleverness and accomplishments for the power of prayer. That's the seductive power of prosperity—it makes us less reliant on God. We think we've got everything under _____."

8. Trust that God is good and that God _____.

9. Tips for when you're struggling:

- ✓ Remember what Jesus says: *Always pray and don't give up.* (Luke 18:1)
- ✓ Schedule time(s) to pray
- ✓ Pray at meals
- ✓ Make a list
- ✓ Pray with a partner
- ✓ Pray the Lord's Prayer (slowly)
- ✓ Pray through the Psalms

10. Do you want your light to be: On Off

11. Pray as a _____ resort.