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Stories Jesus Told Part 2: The Friend At Midnight Vincent Estill

I. Unanswered Prayers Are Designed To Teach Us.

- A. Both the OT and NT contain answers of "No" and unanswered prayers.
- B. It is not God's will to change HIS will to match our will.
- C. Unanswered prayers in **Scripture** and **Life** teach us about God, but also can make us question if spending time in prayer is worth it.

II. The Gospels Contain Many Parables About Prayer.

- A. Luke 18 focuses on slow answers and "No" answers to prayer.

Luke 18:2-5 (NKJV): ... "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.'"

- B. Our Lord's parable ends at v. 5 but not His teaching.

Luke 18:6-7 (NKJV): Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?"

Luke 18:8 (NKJV): "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily..."

Luke 18:8 (NKJV): "...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1 (NKJV): The He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

IDEA: NOT TO **STRONG-ARM** OUR GOD BUT TO **PARTNER** WITH GOD, WE OUGHT **ALWAYS** TO **PRAY** AND NOT **QUIT**.

III. When Faced With Slow Answers Or “No” Answers, To Never Stop Praying And Not Get Discouraged Requires Faith.

Luke 18:8 (NKJV): “...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

A. Jesus states the purpose, reason, and point of telling this parable.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV): Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

B. Prayer is a **relationship WITH** God, not a **dictatorship OVER** God.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV): Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

C. God’s sovereign wisdom and will determine **His means**, **His manner**, **His method**, and **His timing** for answering our prayers.

D. Moses, Saul, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist’s disciples, Paul, the Heiligenthals, and **we** have logged real answers to prayer!

Psalms 120:1 (NKJV): In my distress I cried to the Lord, And He heard me.

E. If we believe James 5:16, when Jesus comes, He will find us in the attitude of prayer.

James 5:16 (NKJV): ...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

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