

Sunday 16 October 2022

Trinity 18



Today's Gospel is another parable about prayer. Jesus teaches us never to give up.

Jesus's story is about a woman who went to a judge. A judge helps people know what is fair. Jesus said in the story that the woman said to the judge, "There is a man who is not being fair to me. Give me my rights!"

At first, the judge refused to do anything, but the woman kept asking him. Finally, the judge said, "This woman is bothering me. I will see that she gets her rights, or she will bother me until I am worn out!"

What Jesus wants us to learn from this story is that God, our Heavenly Father, loves us and wants what is best for us - and he has the wisdom to know what is best. God likes to hear us ask, not just once, but again and again. He doesn't want us to ask once and then give up!

This can seem quite a hard story to understand, but here is another story which helps us to know what Jesus means:

Once there was a little boy who wanted more than anything to play in the band at school. The boy went home from school one day and asked his parents if they would buy him an instrument and let him sign up to play in the band. Well, the boy's parents didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. They said, "We'll have to think about it. After all, a musical instrument costs a lot of money and we aren't sure you will stick with it."

A few days went by and the boy's parents still hadn't said anything, so the boy decided he should ask again. The boy's parents didn't say yes and they didn't say no. They said, "We are still thinking about it."

On his way home from school the next day, the boy decided to go into the local music shop to have a look at the musical instruments. When he walked in the shop, the first thing that caught his eye was a beautiful, shiny trumpet. It wasn't new, but it was in very good condition and it had a really cool fake alligator skin case. It was just what he wanted.

That night, the boy said to his parents, "I went into the music shop today after school and they have a really nice used trumpet. It is exactly what I want and it only costs £50.

The boy's father turned to his wife and said, "I think we had better go and look at that trumpet or we are never going to hear the end of this." The next day, the boy went to the music shop with his parents and they bought him that trumpet.

The boy joined the band – and he did stick with it. He played in the band all through school and when he went on to college he studied music. After graduating from college, he became a music teacher. His life might have turned out quite differently if he had asked his parents for that musical instrument just once and never mentioned it again.

Jesus teaches us that, just as our parents want what is best for us and will give us what we ask for, God, our heavenly Father, also hears and answers our requests. Sometimes we ask God for something one time and never mention it again. Maybe that is our impatience showing. When we ask for something, we want God to say “yes,” and we want him to say it right now! Jesus said that we should always pray and not give up. Perhaps God just wants us to show that we are really serious about what we are asking of him. Does this mean that if we keep asking for something over and over again that God will always give it to us? No, it doesn't, but God loves us and wants what is best for us, and will answer, “yes” if he can.



This week's prayer:

Dear Father, teach us to pray and teach us to be patient and persistent in prayer. If we desire good things, remind us that we need to pray and pray again.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Keep On Praying



Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	S	D	Y	U	L	N	R	A	F	K	V	E	B	J	C	G	X	H	W	P	Z	O	T	Q	I

1. 21-9-8-9-14-6-13 _____

2. 6-26-2-24-13-7 _____

3. 5-7-15-5-2-24 _____

4. 15-5-2-24-26-16-13 _____

5. 8-13-10-5-2-13-3 _____

6. 13-9-8-24-19 _____

7. 20-26-3-23-20 _____

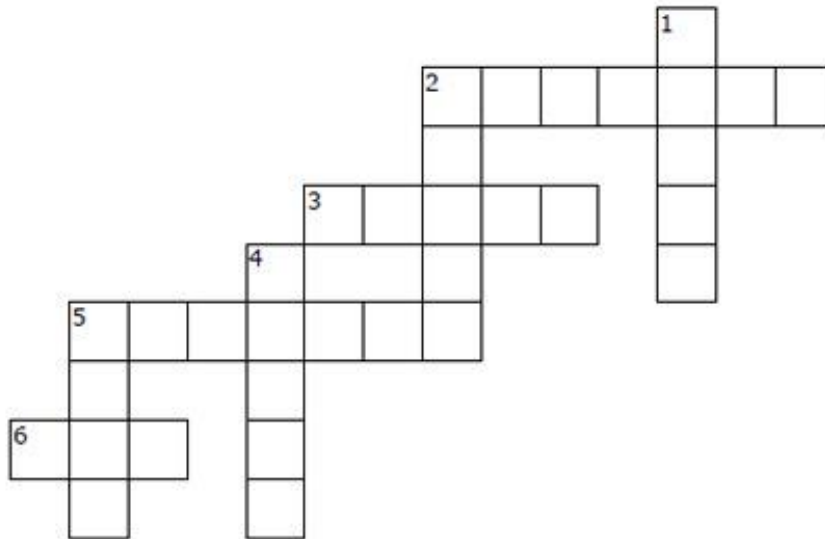
8. 10-9-26-24-19 _____

JUSTICE	PARABLE	FAITH	REFUSED
EARTH	WIDOW	UNJUST	LISTEN

Keep On Praying

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. To be treated fairly
3. A woman whose husband has died and who has not remarried
5. A simple story illustrating a moral or religious lesson
6. The period from sunrise to sunset (light)

DOWN

1. The period between sunset and sunrise (darkness)
2. An official who hears and decides cases brought before a court of law
4. A belief that does not require proof
5. To speak to or make a request to God

justice
faith

night
day

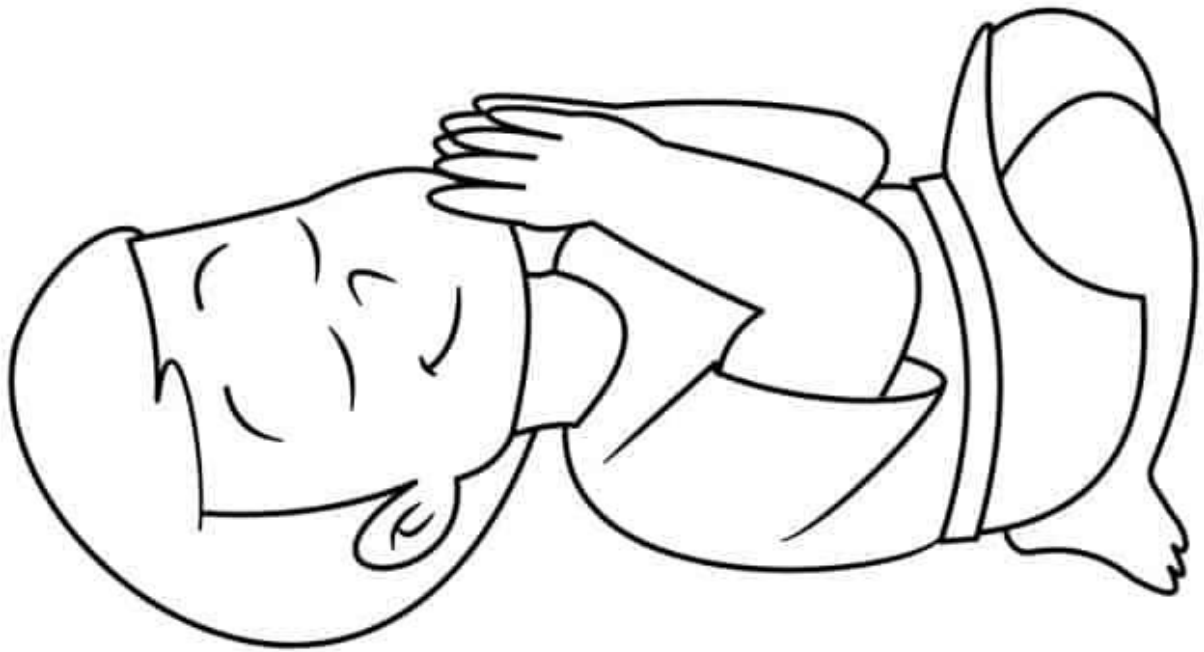
pray
judge

widow
parable

Never

stop

Praying





From Pinterest.