



# God Expects to Hear from Us

Considering a Message from Luke 18:1-8  
For the Week of May 6th, 2018

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*"Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." (Jn 16:23-33) As Jesus spoke these bold words to his disciples, He was instructing them to go before God boldly in prayer! This section from John is the regular Gospel Lesson for "Rogate" (meaning: "make supplication, to ask, request") Sunday—it is the Sunday of the church year dedicated to the gift that Christians have in Prayer. As we pray in Jesus' name, we approach God not as foreigners and enemies—but as those covered in Christ's righteousness. This means we can approach God knowing that we are His own beloved children! This gives us encouragement and boldness to come before God in prayer. Similarly, as we hear in the Sermon text, from Luke 18:1-8 (the alternate Gospel Lesson for Rogate Sunday), we are encouraged to be persistent as we come before God in prayer. Our Old Testament lesson (Jeremiah 29:11-14) likewise encourages us by reminding us that we possess God's Love and Grace. Because of this we can confidently call upon God knowing that God assures us: "I will listen to you." Knowing God's great love for us, we want to follow His encouragement, being "people who do what the word says" (James 1:22-27). Therefore, we pray with boldness and confidence as dear children of God.*

**Opening Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, we are encouraged by You to be persistent as we interact with You! Help us to never be discouraged to come before You in prayer. Instead, always help us to be bold as we come before You—understanding that such boldness professes a strong faith in You and in Your goodwill and love for us. We thank You for Your willingness to listen to us and to answer us in the best way possible! We ask You to strengthen our faith now as we study and discuss Word. We pray this in Your name. Amen.*

## CONNECT to Each Other

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Take a few moments to greet each other—especially anyone who might be new or unfamiliar to the people in your group...

1. Share a time when you were PERSISTENT with something—and good came to you because of it.
  
2. Why do you think people are often reluctant to be persistent with potential employers and service providers?

## CONNECT to the Word—Read the Bible text together (The Gospel Lesson): **Luke 18:1-8**

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3. "The squeaky wheel always gets the grease." How does that old proverb apply to the parable in our text?



4. What makes the unjust judge of the parable an unlikely candidate for teaching a lesson about prayer?
5. What circumstances drove the widow to be so fiercely persistent in her interaction with the judge in the parable?
6. In this parable, Jesus uses an argument from “the lesser to the greater.” What does that mean? How do you see this used in the parable?

## CONNECT to Life

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7. Why is the lesson Jesus teaches so very comforting TO US? How does this parable motivate us to pray again and again?
8. How would you summarize this sermon in a single sentence?
9. How did the hymns, other lessons, parts of the service, etc. fit together with the Sermon message and overall theme for the day?

## CONNECT in Prayer—*In closing & throughout the week!*

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- PLEASE OFFER PRAYERS that we and our fellow Christians might continue always to come before God with our petitions and requests, boldly praying to God!
- Pray for Mt. Olive Lutheran School. Pray that God might be with Mr. Ben Shramm, who we have called to be our next principal—that God might guide Mr. Shramm in this challenging process of determining where he might best serve in God’s Kingdom!
- Pray for our recently confirmands on this special day as they get to receive the miracle of Holy Communion for the first time!
- Prayers of thanks for the birth of Adeline Esther Bockoven, daughter of Peter & Katie Bockoven, born Friday, May 4th—and for God to bless this family as Adeline and parents soon head home and as they soon bring Adeline to the waters of Holy Baptism.
- Continued Prayers for God’s guidance and blessings as we continue with the next steps of our building project.
- Pray for God’s comfort upon the family of Ron Fisher who entered his heavenly rest this past week and as his funeral takes place on Monday of this week.
- Offer any other prayers for those in your group who have any requests.