

Sunday of the Judge

Reading Luke 18:1-8

Meditation

We've all had the experience. It might be an uncooperative store clerk or manager who doesn't want to give a refund. It might be a landlord who doesn't give enough heat or make badly needed repairs. We have to demand repeatedly, persist and persevere until we receive satisfaction.

In today's parable, it was an unjust judge. A poor widow had a judgment coming to her, but the judge didn't want to be bothered. Probably he saw no profit for himself in the widow's problem. Imagine how that widow felt having to approach the powerful judge again and again. She was probably frightened. But she persisted and kept asking and asking until finally, he gave her what she wanted just to be rid of her.

We ask things also of God. We do this in prayer. Sometimes prayer doesn't seem to make a difference the first time or even the third or fourth time. The message of the parable is not to give up hope but to be persistent. We might feel afraid because we're like that widow, small and weak, compared to the powerful judge whom she faced, or God to whom we pray. But there is a big difference between that judge and God. We know that God loves us and wants to respond to our hopes and fervent prayers. If that judge finally acknowledged the widow's wish, won't God, who loves us, hear us and be moved?

But we need to have something within us before we can pray to God and hear a response echo in our lives. The people God answers are those *who are listening*. It is faith that makes prayer not just productive but possible at all.

Prayer

*God, it is through prayer that we talk with you.
Through prayer we thank you for what you have given us,
and ask you for more blessings.
Although we may sometimes feel that you are
unapproachable,*

*We know from our faith how much you love us
and want to help us.*

For reflection

At what times do I seem to turn to God in prayer?

What is one way I can be more constant in my prayers?

Did you know . . .

The Sundays of Lent take us through the entire history of humankind, from creation to the glorious second coming. The hymns and Scripture lessons of each day support the meaning of the Lenten journey: that through prayer, repentance and Christian witness, we can draw close to God once again.