

Sermon Title: Hand It Over

Sermon by Ryan Soderberg

Week of October 17, 2010

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Big Idea: We need to remember to begin each day with prayer and thereby handing everything over to God.

Icebreaker

Sermon Text:

Sermon Text: Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said. "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men, and there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:1-8

In verse 1 Jesus tell the disciples that they "should pray and not give up."

1. When you are confronted with a problem or some kind of trouble in your life, what is your first instinct?

a) Oh no! What am I going to do now?

b) Who can I call to talk to about this?

c) God I know that I can't handle this alone. I am handing it over to you.

In verse 2 it states that the judge "neither feared God nor cared about men." However, because of the widow's persistence, he decided to help her.

**PERSIST- TO CONTINUE FIRMLY DESPITE OBSTACLES.
SYNONYMS- PERSEVERE, CONTINUE, REMAIN, ENDURE
ANTONYMS- WAVER, CEASE, DISCONTINUE, STOP**

2. Why do you think the widow continued to go to the judge?

3. What would have happened to the widow's request if she had chosen to waver, or cease, or discontinue or stop?

In verse 3, the widow asks the judge for "justice against my adversary."

2Chronicles 12:6 reminds us that, "The Lord is just."

Psalm 9:16 tells us that, "The Lord is known by his justice."

In verses 6-8 the writer reminds us that if an unfit judge, who doesn't care about right or wrong, eventually helped the widow because of her persistence, how much more can we be assured that our Father in heaven, who loves us, will answer our prayers?

Read Psalm 121 together. * In this passage the words **your** and **you** have been replaced with **my** and **me**.

I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE HILLS-
WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM?
MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
HE WILL NOT LET YOUR(MY) FOOT SLIP-
HE WHO WATCHES OVER YOU(ME) WILL NOT SLUMBER;

INDEED, HE WHO WATCHES OVER ISRAEL
WILL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.
THE LORD WATCHES OVER YOU(ME)-
THE LORD IS YOUR(MY) SHADE AT YOUR(MY)
RIGHT HAND;
THE SUN WILL NOT HARM YOU(ME) BY DAY,
NOR THE MOON BY NIGHT.
THE LORD WILL KEEP YOU(ME) FROM ALL
HARM-
HE WILL WATCH OVER YOUR(MY) LIFE;
THE LORD WILL WATCH OVER YOUR(MY) COMING
AND GOING
BOTH NOW AND FOREVERMORE.

Be in prayer for each of the guest speakers that we will be having during Tom's absence.

Taking it Home

We need to ask ourselves whether or not we really believe that God not only can but does answer our prayers. Make it a priority this week to begin each day with prayer, thanking God for all of the prayers he has answered and all of the ones that will be answered.

REMEMBER TO H I O (hand it over)

When we pray, remember ACTS:

Adoration (the worship of God)

Confession (formal declaration of our sins to God)

Thanksgiving (offering thanks to God for all he has done)

Supplication (humble and sincere appeal to God)

Looking Ahead

How can I prepare for the next small group meeting?
Read Psalm 121 once each day for the next week to be reminded of where your help truly comes from

Prayer Requests and Praises: