

Sermon title: **DO THE POSSIBLE**

Scripture: Luke 18:1-8

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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I know we all know many people who do not know Jesus Christ.

And we all *hope* that those people will be regenerated by God,
believe in Jesus' work on the cross,
believe in his resurrection,
repent of their sins and
experience the kind of life that Jesus gives:
never thirsty and
never hungering...forever.

I know you hope that will happen. I sure do.

But, I am afraid we **HOPE** it will happen, but struggle to **LABOR** for it?

How bad do we want it?

How hard are we working towards it?

How hard are we praying?

How hard are we sharing?

Maybe you've been praying for years; sharing for years.
Perhaps you've lost heart.

I want to call us today to persevere.
I want to call us today to action.

Turn in your Bible to **Luke 18**. We will read verses 1-8.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. **He said, “In a certain city there was judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary!’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.”** And the Lord said, **“Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”**

The purpose of this parable is clear: that they [and we] ought always to pray and not lose heart.
That's the point.

Cause Jesus knows we **DO** lose heart.
We lose heart cause we tired.
We lose heart cause we are busy.
We lose heart because we lack faith.

Prayer is a sign of not losing heart.
Losing heart shows itself in prayerlessness.

Where there is **heart**...where there is **heat** in the soul...
passion...there is prayer.

E.M. Bounds said,
“Prayer is the oral expression of desire.”

So, Jesus wants us to always pray and not lose heart.
And he gives us some instruction through a parable.

He said, “In a certain city there was judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary!’ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat down by her continual coming.”

She....kept coming to him.
She....kept bothering him.
She....was beating him down.
She.....was continually coming.

HEAR WHAT THE UNRIGHTEOUS JUDGE SAYS!

“I’m going to give her what she wants so she doesn’t wear me out.”

She didn't lose heart.
She prayed.
She got what she wanted.

Is God like the unrighteous-unjust judge.
No, he's the opposite.
He's the righteous-**just** judge.
See the comparison?

And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.

We don't bother him enough.
We don't beat him down.
We don't cry to him day and night.
We lose heart....and hope things will change.

Cameron Townsend, the founder of Wycliffe Bible Translators said,
***"If we will do the possible,
God will do the impossible".***

What is it that we must do? prayer and share!
PRAYER AND SHARE!

We must wrestle with God in prayer, fast and share the gospel and not give up on people.

We must live with urgency.

We must pray, pray, beg, fast, take ahold of the horns of the altar of Godand share, bother God, cry out day and night, beat him down.....we must not take 'NO' for an answer.

We must ask for opportunities.

Pray and not give up.

Look in verse 7 again.

And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.

God loves the elect.

These are the ones who are his.

The ones adopted into his family.

Believers.

He won't delay.

He'll be quick.

But there's a catch.

You see the widow had something that drove her to pray.

She had something that kept her going. Kept her asking.

Kept her holding on.

FAITH.

verse 8...**Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**

Faith prays.

Faith asks.

Faith bothers.

Faith cries out day and night.

Faith beats down the doors.

Faith keeps asking when God doesn't answer immediately.

God is actually looking for faith.

2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "The eyes of the Lord roam to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him."

What have you lost heart praying about?

What have you quit praying about?

There are some people in your life that don't know Jesus Christ and you've stopped bothering God about it.

You've stopped crying out day and night for them.

You've stopped beating God down with them.

You've gotten to the point where you're just *hoping*... and you've stopped *laboring*.

Maybe you've said, 'It's impossible.'

Well, have you done the possible? Prayer? Sharing?

“Keep on!
Don't stop.
Beat me down and bother me with them.
Keep praying in faith.”

Seriously, who are those people in your life....family,
neighbors, co-workers, friends...
that you have to wrestle with before God...

have to wrestle their soul from the grip of the devil but
praying your guts out and sharing with them.

Turn to **2 Corinthians 4**

4:1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Treasure in Jars of Clay

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

“Everybody lives forever.....somewhere.”

Only God can save sinner's.

Only he can do the impossible.

He CAN do it.

He did it to you and me.

Isaiah 59:1 says,

Behold, the LORD's hand is not too shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

But we have to do the possible....

Imagine if God did the impossible.

What could God do if we'd just keep praying.

What could God do if we'd share the gospel.

Imagine if God actually saved_____!

Imagine what impossible things God can do....

if we will just do the possible!