



Preaching, Teaching and Reaching for  
Transformation and Liberation

## “CONSCIOUS AND INTENTIONAL MINISTRY: DOING WHO I AM”

Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” Isaiah 6:8

THE PASTOR’S PEN September 11, 2022

## PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

### <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

On last week, I asked the question, “What does it mean for us to pray without ceasing?” I provided one answer from Jesus’ parable of the Unjust Judge found in Luke 18:1-8. As the woman was persistent in her plea before the judge who expressed, “Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me”, Jesus teaches us: **If an unjust judge will respond favorably to a persistent widow, certainly God will respond to His children’s persistent prayers.**

In Luke 11:5-8. Jesus gives us another example of someone who remained persistent in their praying and received the answer for which they were seeking.

**Luke 11:5-10**, <sup>5</sup> And He said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; <sup>7</sup> and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? <sup>8</sup> I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. <sup>9</sup> “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

#### A KNOCK AT MIDNIGHT (Luke 11:5-8)

##### A. Request from a friend at midnight

1. “Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him”
2. Request denied – “Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give it to you”
3. Persistence wins over friendship - though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs.

##### B. Compare with God

1. We persist in prayer
  - a. Not because we feel that we have been denied and are expecting to change God’s mind. Remember, God does not change God’s mind and do what we desire over God’s own will
  - b. We persist in prayer because we have prayed in the Spirit and in God’s will and believe that we are in line with God’s will regarding the thing for which we are praying
2. Therefore, Jesus encourages us:
  - a. *Ask, and it will be given to you*
  - b. *Seek, and you will find*
  - c. *Knock, and it will be opened to you*
  - d. *For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.*
3. **Lesson: if a friend will respond because of the persistence of the requestor, certainly God will respond to His children who are persistent in prayer**

# The Pilgrim Rest Oasis

*Sharing the Faith · Securing the Future*

Through faith God has given us the space to be an oasis in the middle of the city.

An oasis is a fertile spot in the desert where refuge, relief, and refreshment is found.

Be part of God's plan for Pilgrim Rest and this community.

Start contributing to the Oasis today!  
Let's continue to make progress!



Thank you for your continued support of God's plan for us.

Beginning



Current



Your contribution can be dedicated to a specific activity or the Oasis, in general.

	<b>Educational Enrichment</b>	<b>Technology Literacy</b>	<b>Athletics &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>Facility Innovation</b>
\$500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 Subject books for elementary (math, literature, history, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 iPad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 basketballs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 art sets for aspiring artists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External security lighting to keep the street well-lit and safe</li> </ul>
\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Summer Bridge books to help students retain learning during breaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 "learn how to code" kits for elementary students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 tennis rackets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 beginner saxophones or 8 beginner violins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camera security system to keep everyone safe</li> </ul>
\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 students can be challenged to excel using interactive problem-solving programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 computer for graphic design and website creation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12 sets of golf clubs for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Play Scripts with performance/licensing fee and cast instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wireless PA system to easily communicate at the school</li> </ul>
\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 smartboard to help teachers engage students in learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 STEM lab cart of materials for a classroom with multiple activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3-day Speed and Agility workshop for 15 young aspiring track stars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 pairs of tap shoes for aspiring dancers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Battery operated floor scrubber to keep the building looking its best</li> </ul>
\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 trip for 15 students to visit 1 HBCU</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100 Robotic kits to reinforce studies in STEAM subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open gym for 20 young people 1 X a week throughout the winter in a safe place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 tickets to see Alvin Ailey Dance Company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LED light fixtures throughout the school to promote learning and natural light</li> </ul>

# WORK FOR THE WEEK

## SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

## SEPTEMBER MEDITATION QUOTE

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## TODAY'S STUDY QUESTIONS AND MEDITATION:

Who has given me the formula for listening to God's voice so that my light could shine? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who have I given the formula to so their light could shine? \_\_\_\_\_

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## FOR THE YOUTH

Ask your parents and/or grandparents to talk with you regarding those who gave them the formula for listening to God so their light could shine \_\_\_\_\_

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