

## SERMON: LOVE IS ... Not Irritable (Luke 18:1-7)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

March 31, 2019

In Jesus' parable, a judge gives a woman what she wants because she won't stop bothering her and it irritates him! Jesus promises that, no matter how many times we "bother" God, He will never become irritated with our pleas!

*"For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.'" – Luke 18:4-5*

\_\_\_\_\_ - Absorption ...

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_ – Hearted ...

*Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will not God grant justice to His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay helping them?" – Luke 18:6-7*

### What Jesus Wants Us to Learn ...

1. We get irritated with \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Peter 4:9

2. We get irritated with \_\_\_\_\_.

Isaiah 30:18

*The LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All who wait patiently for Him are happy. – Isaiah 30:18*

3. God is not irritated with \_\_\_\_\_.

Luke 18:8, Psalm 78:37-39

*"When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" – Luke 18:8*

### Questions for individual or group reflection:

What makes you irritated? What makes you irritable? (it's not the same question)

How is hospitality the opposite of irritation?

Do you tend to feel more like the judge in Jesus' parable (Luke 18:2) or the persistent widow (Luke 18:3)?

Jesus has a reason for telling this parable ... what is it? (Luke 18:1)

What's the difference between being persistent and being irritating?

Do you feel that when you pray you are "bothering" God? Why?

Find places in Scripture where we are encouraged to pray (Matt. 7:7-8)

If you fail to pray or seek God's hand in your need, what does that say about your faith in God?

Will Jesus find faith on earth when He returns? (Luke 18:8)

How has Christ's sacrifice guaranteed you a place in God's Kingdom and the privilege of coming to God in prayer?

What are some areas where God is leading you to demonstrate more hospitality rather than irritation?

What are some areas God is encouraging you to re-kindle your prayer to Him ... to be persistent?

Pray: Lord, forgive us for being irritated. Convict us that our irritation is really a lack of gratitude in our heart. Help us instead to be compelled by Christ's Love, and to respond with hospitality rather than irritation. Help us not to be angry with you for responding to our prayers as quickly as we desire. And cause us to believe that you are not angry with us when we pray persistently, but rather, that You encourage it! May Your Love for us compel us to pray fervently and persistently. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Do: Do you have any area of prayer where you have almost lost hope and want to give up praying? ... Share that prayer need with a trusted friend and fellow believer. You don't need to carry that prayer burden alone.

Taking it home / Memory Verse: *The LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All who wait patiently for Him are happy. – Isaiah 30:18*





LOVE is

...NOT IRRITABLE

1 CORINTHIANS 13



LOVE is  
...NOT SELF-SEEKING

1 CORINTHIANS 13

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not arrogant, <sup>5</sup> is not rude, is not self-seeking, **is not irritable** ...

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

**VIEW VIDEO HERE:**

**<https://youtu.be/k4EUTMPuvHo>**

**THE FOLLOWING PREVIEW HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR  
APPROPRIATE AUDIENCES  
BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-5

<sup>1</sup> Now Jesus told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up.<sup>2</sup> “There was a judge in a certain town who **didn't fear God or respect people.** <sup>3</sup> And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’”

LUKE 18:1-3

# SELF-ABSORPTION:

someone's need irritates you because it demands something from you (more time, energy, thought, etc.)



# SERVANT-HEARTED:

someone's need inspires you because it asks something of you

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LUKE 18:1-3

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**LUKE 18:4-5**

<sup>6</sup> Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> Will not God grant justice to His elect who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay helping them?”

**LUKE 18:6-7**

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT US TO LEARN?

# WHAT DOES JESUS WANT US TO LEARN?

We get irritated with **each other**.

Offer hospitality to one another without  
grumbling.

1 PETER 4:9

Remain calm.

Don't take it personally.

Use your best listening skills.

Actively sympathize.

Apologize gracefully.

Find a solution.

Take a few minutes on your own.



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We get irritated **with God**.

The LORD is waiting to show you mercy, and is rising up to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. All **who wait patiently for Him** are happy.

ISAIAH 30:18

# WHAT DOES JESUS WANT US TO LEARN?

We get irritated with each other.  
We get irritated with God.  
God is not irritated with **us**.

“When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?”

**LUKE 18:8**

<sup>37</sup> Their hearts were insincere toward Him,  
and they were unfaithful to His covenant.

<sup>38</sup> Yet He was compassionate; He atoned for  
their iniquity and did not destroy them. He often  
turned His anger aside and did not unleash all  
His wrath. <sup>39</sup> He remembered that they were  
only flesh, a wind that passes and does not  
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**PSALM 78:37-39**

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