

## Ask #2

### Luke 18:1-8

Here Jesus spins a story that makes His “Ask!” message even clearer. Notice how He uses exaggeration to emphasize His point. Suppose the weakest, most helpless member of society (in that culture, a poor widow) needs the help of the most uncooperative of all public officials (a stubborn judge who cares nothing about God, people, or justice).

He won’t willingly help her. He’ll do his very best to ignore her. But if she keeps asking long enough, he will give her what she wants just to get her off his back.

If even such an unkind person will honor persistent asking, how about our loving, just, ever-faithful Father?

Jesus ends the story with this: when we face a need, God’s faithfulness is never in question. The only question is, will we trust Him enough to persevere in prayer?

### Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

Finally, during the last week of His earthly ministry, Jesus made His point vividly, using a living object lesson that His disciples would never forget.

It was Passover week, and Jesus and His disciples were staying in Bethany, just two miles from Jerusalem. As they were walking to the city one morning, Jesus was hungry. He saw a fig tree at a distance, so he walked up to it, apparently looking for something to eat. But when He got close, the tree had nothing but leaves. He said to the tree, “*May no one ever eat fruit from you again!*” (Mark 11:14, NIV). He made sure the disciples were listening.

The next morning they passed the same tree, and it was completely dead. At Jesus’ word, what had been a healthy tree the day before was now withered from the roots up.

They all knew that it wasn’t the season for figs, so they understood that Jesus wasn’t concerned with food. They were all ears as He made His point clear:

*“Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.”* (Mark 11:22-23, NASB)