



SERMON DISCUSSION PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Petition | Patrick Miller | December 14, 2025

Experiments Review

- How did it go? What was challenging?
- What did you learn? About yourself and about God?
- What would you like to incorporate into your life going forward?

Sermon Discussion

Read:

Luke 2:36-38

There was also a prophet named Anna. She was the daughter of Penuel from the tribe of Asher. Anna was very old. After getting married, she lived with her husband seven years. [37] Then she was a widow until she was 84. She never left the temple. She worshiped night and day, praying and going without food. [38] Anna came up to Jesus' family at that moment. She gave thanks to God. And she spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the time when Jerusalem would be set free.

1. How did Anna choose to wait for the Messiah? Why?

Read:

James 4:2

You want something, but you don't have it. So you kill. You want what others have, but you can't get what you want. So you argue and fight. You don't have what you want, because you don't ask God.

Matthew 7:7-11

"Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. [8] Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. The door will be opened to the one who knocks. [9] "Suppose your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? [10] Or suppose he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him



a snake? [11] Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

2. Why don't we receive what we want according to these verses?
3. How do we make sense then of unanswered prayers?

Read:

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a story. He wanted to show them that they should always pray and not give up. [2] He said, "In a certain town there was a judge. He didn't have any respect for God or care about what people thought. [3] A widow lived in that town. She came to the judge again and again. She kept begging him, 'Make things right for me. Someone is treating me badly.' [4] "For some time the judge refused. But finally he said to himself, 'I don't have any respect for God. I don't care about what people think. [5] But this widow keeps bothering me. So I will see that things are made right for her. If I don't, she will someday come and attack me!'" [6] The Lord said, "Listen to what the unfair judge says. [7] God's chosen people cry out to him day and night. Won't he make things right for them? Will he keep putting them off? [8] I tell you, God will see that things are made right for them. He will make sure it happens quickly. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find people on earth who have faith?"

4. What is the point of Jesus' parable for us?
5. Why do you think God set it up to provide some things for us only when we pray or even pray persistently? Why not just give it to us without prayer?

Sharing and Prayer

Think for a moment if Jesus asked, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Go around and have everyone petition God for what he or she said. Close in prayer.

What to practice for next time...

This is the last sermon discussion in this series. But, two practices remain.

- This week- Petition
- Week of 12/21- Celebration

Consider following up by text with each other about how these practices went.