



## The Parable of the Persistent Widow: Never Give Up

The Parable of the Persistent Widow is a lesson in never giving up and the importance of *persistently* praying. When I read *Luke 18:1-8*, I was instantly reminded of a difficult time in my own life and how true this parable proved for me. As many of you know, I have five children, two of whom are adopted. When the children, biologically my niece and nephew, came to live with us in late 2014, I had twin infants at home. Never in my dreams did I imagine that a situation in my family would result in the need to take on two additional children, but it *was* necessary.

So overnight I went from being the mother of two infant sons to being a mother of two *and* the caretaker to a five-month-old boy and a four-year-old girl. Although my husband and I both had decent paying jobs at the time, it was no match for the expenses of four children under the age of five (three of whom were on formula and in diapers). I started praying that day. I prayed to God to give me strength to be the best caretaker I could be and the one that these children needed during such a difficult time in their lives. I prayed for patience and wisdom in raising so many small children, and I prayed for guidance on how to best navigate a difficult family dynamic that had been created when the children were removed from their parents and placed with me. I prayed the children would be happy and well-adjusted and that I could help them find that happiness and security. And lastly, after every obstacle we reached with regard to financial assistance, medical coverage, etc., I prayed for signs and open doors as we figured out how to afford these children in our tiny two bedroom home.

I prayed a lot, and all the time. Every time I found a moment to spare I prayed, every day. As the months and eventually the years passed by, it was obvious that my prayers were being answered. One-by-one, doors opened and signs revealed themselves showing me the way. My husband, James, and I were blessed with pay raises and promotions, and little-by-little we had enough financial security that we were able to move the kids into a bigger home and eventually adopt them. Our story is one of never giving up. It is a story of using the connection you have to God to ask for the things you need.

There are so many families out there in the same situation as my family found itself. So many children out there that need a loving home, but the foster and adoption system (in Georgia anyways) is a difficult and expensive system to navigate. My heart was incredibly full when our parish recently found itself in the position to help a group of siblings stay together in foster care. Through donations and prayers, we made it possible for those kids to have a warm-loving environment during what is no doubt a very difficult time in their lives. How many more children and families are out there that we can help?

*Submitted with love by Lindsay Stinchcomb*