I. Urgency in Prayer

1. One of the definitions for urgency is the idea of **insistence** which is connected with the word **persistence**.
   a. **Persistence** is defined as "the quality or state of being persistent *especially*: perseverance" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).
   b. When discussing the concept of **perseverance**, we are dealing with being or remaining steadfast.
2. Perseverance should characterize our prayer life (Rm. 12:12; cf. Col. 4:2).
   a. continuing instant (*proskartereo* G4342 verb) The idea is constant diligence, effort that never lets up, confident waiting for results; and several times these characteristics are emphasized by the periphrastic construction of the participle with the imperfect of the verb to be, showing continuity and suggesting perseverance that does not falter or fail (Spicq 193).
   b. Following the ascension of Jesus persistent prayer was offered (Ac. 1:14).
   c. The early New Testament church continued steadfastly in prayer (Ac. 2:42).
   d. The apostles understood the need of urgency in prayer (Ac. 6:4).

II. The Parable of the Friend at Midnight

- Lesson text: Lk. 11:5-13

1. The key concept in this parable is that of **importunity**.
   a. importunity (*ho* G3588 definite article *anaideia* G335 noun) denotes "shamelessness, importunity" (*a*, negative, *n*, euphonic, and *aidos*, "shame, modesty"), and is used in the Lord's illustration concerning the need of earnestness and perseverance in prayer, Luke 11:8. If shameless persistence can obtain a boon from a neighbor, then certainly earnest prayer will receive our Father's answer (Vine vol. 2 p. 321).
   b. The English definition of **importunity** is "to press or urge with troublesome persistence" (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary).

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c. We might consider this to be "in bad taste" or "annoying" but this is not the way prayer is perceived by God.

2. God desires that we are urgent in our prayers to Him.
   a. This friend came urgently at midnight due to his unexpected guest.
   b. God wants us to ask, seek, and knock (Lk. 11:9-10).
   c. Furthermore, God will give us **only** those things that are good for us (Lk. 11:11-13; cf. Mt. 7:11; Jm. 1:17).

III. The Parable of the Unjust Judge

- Lesson text: Lk. 18:1-8

1. Luke records for us the singular lesson of this parable at the beginning (Lk. 18:1).
   a. **Ought** means that it is necessary.
   b. **Always** means at all times.
   c. **Not to faint** means to become weary, lose courage, or heart.
   d. Clearly, we **need** to be praying **urgently** and **often**!
2. The widow, similar to the friend at midnight, was importunate (Lk. 18:3-5).
   a. She was not going to give up on being avenged (seeking justice).
3. The unjust judge obtained justice for the widow not because he feared God or man, but because of her urgency.
   a. How much more so the Judge of all the Earth that will only do right (Gen. 18:25)?
   b. This is the point (Lk. 18:6-8)!
   c. We must always remember that God is longsuffering (Lk. 18:7; 2 Pt. 3:9).