



WINTER 2026

# TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

## The Importunate Widow

Several years ago in a Raleigh Sunday morning service, Bro. Chris Collier preached about the importunate widow and the unjust judge. This isn't a parable of Jesus's that I think about frequently but something about that sermon stuck with me - a lesson on prayer, on persistence, and shameless faith. This was a time in history where women were subordinate to men, and their roles were largely defined by their fathers or husbands. They had no legal voice and little societal standing. The widow lost all sources of income, support, and retribution when her husband passed away and as a result, had no means of providing for herself or, in this particular case, getting justice against an adversary.

In St. Luke 18:1-8, Jesus teaches the people about prayer, stating that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint." He illustrates this point by telling them the parable of the persistent widow who comes before a judge to be avenged of her adversary. The judge is characterized as having no regard for God nor his fellow man. Despite the judge's character, the desperate widow repeatedly comes before him and begs for him to avenge her of her adversary. She was a nobody, and the judge repeatedly sent her away with no recourse. The man in power, the one with the ability to do something, told her "No!"

I've had some experiences in life where I had to go before a higher authority and ask for something, and despite presenting my best logical, rational, justified case about what the right or best thing to do was, the answer was no. So I did something else and moved on. In my spiritual life, however, is where this parable, this widow woman is an example to me. Her importunity. The judge eventually gives in to her pleas and avenges her—because her continual asking and her constant presence wears him. It wasn't because he felt it was the right thing to do, or a pang of conscience, but because it got rid of his inconvenience.

Importunity, in a more biblical context, refers to persistent, bold, and unwavering prayer or request. The Greek word for importunity, "anaideia," can be translated as "without shame." Key characteristics of importunity include persistence—not giving up, but continuing to ask, seek, and knock; shamelessness—an impudent insistence that doesn't hold back; faith—trust that God both hears and answers with no fear of rejection; and intimacy—a close relationship with the Creator and focusing on Him rather than one's own ability to solve the problem.

We have a gracious Heavenly Father that loves us and wants what is best for us. In another parable of importunity, a man disturbs his friend at midnight for three loaves of bread (St. Luke 11:5-8) and receives them, not because he is his friend, but because of his persistent and shameless asking (it was midnight!). Jesus asks "how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (v 13) We know God is righteous, just, merciful, and loving—the opposite of the unjust judge that eventually avenges the widow. Doesn't knowing that make it so much easier to bring your prayers and pleas to God? He wants us to importune him—without fear, without shame, without ceasing. He wants us to bring every fervent, consequential request before Him. Relying on God for all that we need brings humility and leaves no room for self-sufficiency or self-centeredness. The thought of this widow and her relentless cries for justice inspires me to cast all my cares on Jesus, to always pray and not to faint. We can petition the King of Kings and Lord of Lords without shame and "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

**- Sis. Heather Clelland**

# That Good Part

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I'm in a season of life right now with young kids, and it is abundantly clear how quickly time is passing. With that realization, we feel a duty to make every moment count and protect the time we do have with them. As they grow, this is our chance to guide them, direct them, and point them to Christ. They are looking to us—and how humbling it is that God chose us for this job.

There are so many distractions in this world and so many ways to fill our time. If we aren't careful, we can easily overcommit, focus on things that don't truly matter, and lose out on precious moments that could be spent nourishing them. It is the choices we make and the commitments we take on, that shape our days and fill our time. I find myself sometimes overcommitting, and while those commitments may be good things, they still come at a cost that isn't always beneficial.

I'm reminded of the story of Mary and Martha in St. Luke 10:38-42. While Martha was worried about serving her guests—which seems like a good thing to do as a hostess—she was missing out on something SO much greater. I have to remind myself: there will always be a to-do list. But CHOOSING time to sit at Jesus' feet, to listen to His words, and to rest and meditate with Him, that needs to come first. Jesus reminds Martha it "is needful."

So make sure you are choosing "that good part" (as Jesus said) and sit at His feet. And what better way to guide our children than to show them by example that even when life is busy, even when there are things that need to get done, that we choose to spend time with Jesus, above all else.

- Sis. Sarah Copeland

# Walking Uprightly Before the Lord

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Proverbs 14:2 (KJV) says, "He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him."

Living right before God shows our reverence for Him. When our hearts are set on Him, it's not about following rules; it's about showing love for and being obedient to the Lord.

In the parable of the ten pounds (Luke 19:11-27). Jesus tells of a nobleman who went into a far country to receive a kingdom and gave ten servants one pound each, saying, "Occupy till I come." When the nobleman returned, he called his servants to see what they had done. Some traded and gained more, and they were praised. One hid the money and did nothing, and he was called wicked.

The servants who worked faithfully remind me of what it means to walk uprightly before God. They used what they were given responsibly, trusting their master. The one who did nothing shows what happens when we ignore God's instruction and go our own way.

I've seen that truth in my own life. My grandmother is a woman who has truly feared the Lord. She didn't have much, but she used what she had to serve Him faithfully. She took me in when I needed her most, cared for a dear friend with cancer, and led that friend to Christ before she passed away. I've also seen others close to me choose to live without the Lord and suffer the consequences of that path.

Just like the faithful servants in the parable of the pounds, I want to use what He has given me wisely and for His glory. My desire is to live in a way that shows reverence to the Lord, just as Proverbs 14:2 describes, to walk in uprightness. Uprightness, as revealed in these scriptures, is more than outward behavior; it reflects the condition of our hearts. Walking in uprightness means to live in humble submission, recognizing His authority, and trusting His ways. When we live in humility and obedience, we honor the One who calls us to righteousness. But to be perverse in one's ways, or to resist His rule, is to despise Him in our hearts. May we be counted among those faithful servants who gladly say, "Jesus, reign over me."

- Sis. Alicia Skelton

# What is your Favorite Name For Jesus?

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We asked some dear saints this question and the following are their responses.

“Hundreds of names are given to our Savior in the Bible, all are wonderful, but the one I like best is the name the angel gave him. “And she shall bring forth a son, and that shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.””

- **Bro. Arthur Curry**

“Prince of Peace. That is what Jesus wants for all of us. “Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”


- **Sis. Bernice Hagan**

“Jesus. He is all the world to me! My life, my joy, my all.”

- **Sis. Margaret Collier**

“Truth. Jesus, Truth, is the same for every generation, available to every person and gives true freedom.”

- **Sis. Bernie Bonner**



“My Savior (my refuge) – Because He loved me enough that He willingly shed His blood on a cruel cross, FOR ME, so that I could have Heaven in eternity.”

- **Sis. Carolyn Lockhart**

“Emmanuel. God is with us, and I enjoy having God with me at all times!”

- **Bro. Charles Collier**

“Savior. To me it is so personal, endearing and respectful. The psalmist David wrote, “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.””

- **Bro. Bernard Collier**

“Jesus. He is my all in all!”

- **Bro. Walter Cross**

“Messiah. That is what Christ is...The Messiah”

- **Bro. Willie Hagan, Jr.**

“Prince of Peace. If you have peace, you can love others and get along better. “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- **Sis. Jeanette Tarr**

“I call Him Lord and He’s my ‘best friend’! He sticks closer than a brother, like the Bible says. He listens to all my prayers and knows exactly what I need. I trust Him with everything.”

- **Bro. Bob Lamons**

“Comforter. During this bout of cancer, the COMFORTER has a different meaning. When days are hard, I have a Comforter taking care of me, who carries me and gives me peace. To me, it is this Comforter I rely on.”

- **Sis. Millie Rooke Waite**

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# TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH

## YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL FEASTMEETING SERVICES

FEB 28TH - SATURDAY 11AM YOUNG FOLKS SERVICE  
SINGING @ 6:30PM W/EVENING SVC @ 7PM  
MARCH 1ST - SUNDAY 11AM WORSHIP SERVICE

MEALS AFTER EACH SERVICE  
1235 BELVEDERE DRIVE  
HANAHAH, SC 29410

*"And the peace of God, which passeth  
all understanding, shall keep your hearts  
and minds through Christ Jesus."*

(Philipians 4:7)

- Submitted by Sis. Jeanette Tarr