Scripture Helps From Today's Sermon

--Sermon Text: Luke 18:1-8a: Now Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. There was also a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, "Grant me justice against my adversary." For sometime the judge refused. But finally, he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care about men, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!" The Lord then said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will God not bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice and quickly.""

--God answers our prayers for our good for Jesus' sake: Romans 8:32: He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?

--Sometimes God answers our prayers immediately: Isaiah 24:65: "Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear." –Example: Genesis 24: Abraham's servant prays for Isaac's future wife.

--Sometimes God delays to help us reflect on His goodness and will for us: 2Corinthians 12:7-9: Paul prayed three times for a thorn in his flesh to be removed before the Lord answered his prayer.

--Sometimes God doesn't answer at all in order to build up our relationship with Him: Matthew 15:21-28: A Canaanite woman begged for healing for her demon possessed daughter. At first the Lord didn't say a word.

--Sometimes we can question God's answers or seek clarification, but we are to never complain about the answers He gives: Examples: Abraham praying for Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18; Gideon testing God's answer to his prayer in Judges 6