

Series "Knowing The Exact Truth"
"Reaching God's Ear"
Luke 18:1-8
Study-72

A parable exclusive to Luke's Gospel: "Parable of The Unjust Judge,"
better titled **"Parable of The Persistent Widow"**
Similar Parable of **Luke 11:5-8 "Midnight Caller"**

This parable presents contrasts. (Luke 18:5-8) Colossians 4:2

This parable is then followed by another parable of prayer
(Luke 18:9-14) the parable of "The Pharisee and the tax collector
praying in the temple"

Luke 18 The Disciples' Call To Radical Faith:

Verses 1-8	Tried Faith
Verses 9-14	Repentant Faith
Verses 15-17	Childlike Faith
Verses 18-30	Unreserved Faith
Verses 31-43	Developing Faith

Thought Of Our Passage: "All Times The Disciple Must Pray In Dependence, So That We Don't Lose Heart And Quit."

1. Verse 1 The Appeal
2. Verses 2-5 The Parable
3. Verses 6-8 The Application

1. Verse 1 The Appeal:

Luke 18:1 Now

The Context is **Luke 17:20-37** Dealing with the question **Luke 17:20**
when the kingdom of God was coming. Jesus launches into a prophetic
discourse to His disciples on the future and the end of the age. **Luke 17:22**

Luke 17:37 We are living in a spiritually rotten world.

The only way to keep oneself from decay is prayer!

He was telling them a parable

Jesus is speaking to His disciples regarding the last days.
A parable was an illustration that was given alongside teaching

Purpose Of This Parable – At All Times, We Must Pray:

to show that at all times they ought to ("Should, Must") pray In light
of the return of Jesus and the difficult times ahead, the follower of Jesus is
to Pray.

Rabbi's taught that one should pray **three times** a day so as not to weary God with our requests. **Daniel 6:10** the example. **Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing;**

Purpose Of This Parable – Don't Lose Heart: and not to lose heart, (faint) literally *"to be filled with bad thoughts, wanting to quit."*
If we don't pray, we will faint;

2. Verses 2-5 The Parable:

Luke 18:2 saying, "In a certain city there was a judge

The judges of the East purchased their position. A judge would have a circuit that he would move from place to place they used a tent.

a judge who did not fear God, (Godless)

If this man was a Jew, he was rebelling against the qualifications of a judge.

(Most likely a Gentile/Roman judge)

2 Chronicles 19:6-7

and did not respect man.

This is the wrong man for this position.

Luke 18:3 Jesus uses a **"Widow"** and a **"Judge"** to illustrate **difficult times**, and the **obstacles** one could face in the last days!

"There was a widow in that city,

Luke mentions widows more than all the other Gospel writers combined.

Suggest 3 Obstacles Facing This Woman:

1. The Obstacle Of Being a Woman:

Being a woman, she had little standing before the law.

A woman that was a widow, she had no husband to stand with her in court. (Exodus 22:22-24)

and she kept coming to him,

Notice that none of these things deterred her. **Ruth 1:20-21**

2. The Obstacle Of An Adversary: saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' She requests protection, not vengeance!

We have a spiritual adversary 1 Peter 5:8; Psalms 94:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3

Luke 18:4

3. The Obstacle Of A Judge: "For a while he was unwilling;
This parable teaches us to be prepared for the injustices of life.
(Life is not fair!)

Luke 18:5 yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, We would say that this woman was **"Bugging!"**

lest by continually coming she wear me out." which literally means
"give me a black eye poke at my eye!" (Get in my face!)
Black eye reputation!

The judge will grant her request not for (fear of God), not for (Human-Kindness) but for the sake of (Patience).

3. Verses 6-8 The Application:

Luke 18:6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said;

What was it that the judge said that Jesus wants us to think about?
this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out." He was worn out by her unrelenting persistence!

Our Lord is saying, "When you come to God in prayer, do not think of God as this unjust judge!

Consider These Five Contrasts Between This Unrighteous Judge And God.

- 1. The woman was a stranger, but we are the children of God, and God cares for His children: (Luke 11:13)**
- 2. The woman had no access to the judge, but God's children have open access into His presence: (Hebrews 4:14-16)**
- 3. The woman had no friend in court, but the believer has an Advocate in heaven, the Savior Jesus Christ: (1 John 2:1)**
- 4. The woman had no promises that she could claim, but when the believer prays, we can open the Word and claim the many promises of God: (Romans 8:26-27)**
- 5. The widow came to a court of law, but God's children come to a throne of grace: (Hebrews 4:14-16)**

Three Suggestions on how to develop persistence like this widow:

1. A Sense Of Duty - All of life is not filled with pleasures but rather obligations.

2. When Knocked Down, Don't Stay Down - Proverbs 24:16

3. Stay Focused On God's Eternal Plan - Romans 8:18

Luke 18:7 now will not God bring about justice for His elect,

This remark is stated emphatically with a double negative.

"God will definitely vindicate his people" (Delay is not denial)

Justice *"vindication, protection"* There is an aspect of the justice of God that is not popular today, which includes **"God's Judgment"**

Romans 12:19

who cry *(Intense prayer)* **to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?**

What we often miss is God's concern of the persistent prayer for His coming Kingdom. Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come.

Luke 18:8 He will bring about justice for them quickly.

(When God starts, it will happen quickly) **How, then, do we explain**

apparent delays in answers to prayer? (Were not synchronized with God or not fit for His answer)

However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?" The question is in reference to Luke 17:22-37 "Will He find [that kind of] faith on the earth?" (Persistent praying is counted as faith, evidence of faith, and the building of faith)

Application:

- 1. Difficult Days Call For Prayer. If We Don't Pray, We Will Faint, And Lose Heart:**
- 2. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Must Have A Sense Of Duty, Be Responsible:**
- 3. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Need Determination That If Knocked Down, We Will Not Stay Down:**
- 4. In Order To Stay Persistent In Prayer, We Must Stay Focused On God's Eternal Plan, His Kingdom Come:**