

## “The Unjust Judge”

Text: Luke 18:1-8

1. \_\_\_\_\_ can be as good thing.

Luke 18:1-8 says: **“Then Jesus used this story to teach his followers that they should always pray and never lose hope. <sup>2</sup> “In a certain town there was a judge who did not respect God or care about people. <sup>3</sup> In that same town there was a widow who kept coming to this judge, saying, ‘Give me my rights against my enemy.’ <sup>4</sup> For a while the judge refused to help her. But afterwards, he thought to himself, ‘Even though I don’t respect God or care about people, <sup>5</sup> I will see that she gets her rights. Otherwise she will continue to bother me until I am worn out.”**

**<sup>6</sup> The Lord said, “Listen to what the unfair judge said. <sup>7</sup> God will always give what is right to his people who cry to him night and day, and he will not be slow to answer them. <sup>8</sup> I tell you, God will help his people quickly. But when the Son of Man comes again, will he find those on earth who believe in him?”**

2. The ‘spiritual’ meaning of this parable is to be persistent in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Sometimes when we pray & pray & pray, we feel like we are experiencing the “law of diminished returns” – so we stop praying. We stop \_\_\_\_\_ that God cares & that He will act.
4. We must \_\_\_\_\_ trusting God’s love & concern for us, & His ability to answer prayers according to His plan & purposes. We do not give up or give in.
5. What can we learn from this parable to help us with everyday life experiences like the examples I have given? We pray....pray....pray... pray....and then.....we pray some \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We are reminded in this parable that IF a human judge with NO compassion/concern for what is right responded to the widow’s plea, how much more can we expect our God, who is full of compassion, & cares about what is right, to \_\_\_\_\_ to us when we cry out in our time of need.
7. Calling out to God in prayer does NOT mean that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ from suffering, pain, & disappointment. Calling out to God in prayer means that God will \_\_\_\_\_ us through whatever comes our way. We will make it. We will make it!
8. Two truths we can take away from this parable:

- A. Like the unjust judge, God may \_\_\_\_\_ answer our prayers immediately. It may be God's plan for us to experience some kind of injustice, suffering, or persecution in order that our faith might be \_\_\_\_\_ & we grow strong in our dependency on God.

I Peter 1:5-7 states: "Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God's power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time. You now will rejoice in this hope, even if it's necessary for you to be distressed for a short time by various trials. This is necessary so that your faith may be found genuine. (Your faith is more valuable than gold, which will be destroyed even though it is itself tested by fire.) Your genuine faith will result in praise, glory, and honor for you when Jesus Christ is revealed."

- B. God \_\_\_\_\_ us to share in the suffering of Christ in this life, so that we may share in His glory in the next life.

I Peter 4:12-13 states: "My friends, do not be surprised at the terrible trouble which now comes to test you. Do not think that something strange is happening to you. But be happy that you are sharing in Christ's sufferings so that you will be happy and full of joy when Christ comes again in glory."

9. God wants us to be \_\_\_\_\_ when praying. We do not \_\_\_\_\_. The 'fabric' of our faith will be revealed as we persist.
10. The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that \_\_\_\_\_ hear Him.