



**Luke 18:1-8**, *And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming." <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

## 1. PRAYER IS NEEDED

**Luke 18:1**, *"And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart."*

### LOSING HEART

- \* ἐγκακέω | "To lose one's motivation in continuing a desirable pattern of conduct or activity."
- \* Being fainthearted, giving up, growing discouraged.
- \* God's desire for you is bold faith, not faint-heartedness.

**Luke 17:22**, *"The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

## 2. PRAYER IS HEARD

**Luke 18:2-5**, *"He said," "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming."*

### The Judge is Bad

- \* The judge in the story does not fear God and does not respect people.
- \* **Exodus 22:22-24**, "Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless."

## The Widow is Helpless

- ✳ Widows were defenseless. Without a patriarch to speak up for them, they were among the most vulnerable of an ancient Eastern society.
- ✳ God uses our weakness to show His strength.
- ✳ **Psalm 65:5**, A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.
- ✳ **Psalm 145:18-19**, The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

# 3. PRAYER IS ANSWERED

**Luke 18:6-8**, *And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"*

## An Unjust Judge Vs. A Just Judge

- ✳ **Jesus Explains The Parable.** "Hear what the unrighteous judge says." Jesus wants us to really look at the bad judge. This parable is a lesser-to-"greater argument." If an unjust judge can be just, how much greater is God?
- ✳ **Deuteronomy 32:4**, "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."
- ✳ **Psalm 9:7**, "For the Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face."
- ✳ **Luke 11:11-13**, "Or which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? If he asks for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

## Gods Justice For His Own

- ✳ God will give justice. It is not a question of *if* but *when*. Our job is to pray!
- ✳ **Matthew 6:10-11a**, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven... give us this day our daily bread..."
- ✳ The disciples were both chosen and sent out as "sheep in the midst of wolves." (Matt 10:16, 22-25)
- ✳ **Luke 12:6-7**, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."
- ✳ **Romans 8:16**, "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
- ✳ "God is not reluctant to give, as the judge was. He longs to give to his children... Still, the parable clearly teaches that believers are to 'cry' out to the Lord 'day and night' for justice. Believers are to continue to voice their desire for justice, for the coming of the kingdom—not because God is hesitant to grant our requests but precisely because he promises to answer our prayers." - Thomas Schreiner

## Gods Justice: Slow or Speedy?

- ✳ "You will receive justice. But remember, this involves continuing to pray day and night. Your definition of quick may not equal God's definition." - R.C. Sproul
- ✳ **2 Peter 3:8-10**, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."
- ✳ **Needed Perspective** | We usually aren't good judges of time. Additionally, we are also not always the best judges of ultimate justice.
- ✳ **Jesus ends with a question** | "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"