

"The Parable of the Unjust Judge or The Persistent Widow"

Luke 18:1-8

"We ought always to pray"

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you; Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer; And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit (in Christ's name, according to His Word), with all prayer and supplication (a call for help to God). To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints; And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests we have asked of Him."
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 4:2; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:17-18; 1 John 5:14-15).

"And not lose heart (give up, become weary, lose courage)"

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain; And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up; Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart; So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison; I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16-17; John 16:33)

- *"There was a judge that neither feared God nor respected man."*
 - *"He (Jehoshaphat King of Judah) appointed judges....and said to the judges, "Consider what you do, for you judge not for man but for the Lord. He is with you in giving judgment. Now then, let the fear of the Lord be upon you. Be careful what you do, for there is no injustice with the Lord our God, or partiality or taking bribes."* (2 Chronicles 19:5-7)
 - These kinds of judges were to rule in the civil court to make judgments on the affairs of everyday life. He represented God among the people.
 - This specific judge was wicked and rebellious to the uttermost. He was the exact opposite of what every person has been called to (Mark 12:30-33).
- *"And there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice....'"*
 - *"You shall not mistreat any widow....If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and My wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless; Cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to...the widow...."* (Exodus 22:22-23; Deuteronomy 27:19).
 - *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world; If any believing woman has relatives that are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may take care of those who are truly widows"* (James 1:27; 1 Timothy 5:16; cf. Acts 6:1-7).
 - Because of his sin and stubbornness he refused for a while but eventually the widow's persistence gave the judge "a blackeye." The judge ended up doing the right thing for selfish motives, not to glorify God.
- *"And will not God give justice to His elect who cry to Him day and night?"*
 - God will give justice and do what is right...
 - *"God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day. If a man does not repent, God will whet His sword."* (Psalm 7:11-12)

(continued →)

Worship: How Great Thou Art (Various Artists)

Be Thou My Vision (Norton Hall Band)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.” (Psalm 145:9)*
- *“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ ” (Romans 12:19)*
- *“The Lord....forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty....” (Deuteronomy 34:7)*
- *“Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith....so that He might be JUST and the JUSTIFIER of the one who has faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3:25-26)*
- Because we are God’s elect He hears our prayers.
 - *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)*
- *“Will He delay long over them? I tell you He will give justice to them speedily....”*
 - God’s timing of deliverance is perfect and for our good. God can be trusted in difficulty.
 - *“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him?” (Matthew 7:11)*
 - *“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself, restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)*
 - We should be praying for our brothers and sisters around the world that are greatly suffering for the sake of the Gospel.
- *“When the Son of Man comes, will He find this kind of faith?”*