

## The Gospel of Luke

### The Parable of the Unrighteous Judge

Luke 18:1-8

1. **The Purpose for the Parable** (v.1)

Jesus had warned the disciples that they would long to see the fulfillment of the kingdom of God but they would not see it (Luke 17:22). This parable is specifically to encourage them to not lose heart at the delayed fulfillment of the kingdom.

2. **The Wicked Judge** (v.2)

Wicked judges were a plague which the nation often had to endure (Amos 5:10-13; cf. 1 Sam. 8:1-5), and this judge is the epitome of a wicked judge in Israel (cf. Deut. 6:6; Lev. 19:17-18). A good judge was to avoid unjust favoritism and judge with righteous judgment (Deut. 16:18; 2 Chron. 19:5-11; cf. John 7:24).

3. **The Needy Widow** (v.3)

Along with orphans and strangers, widows were to be the special beneficiaries of compassion in Israel (cf. Deut 27:19). Similarly, the local church is to be diligent in caring for its own widows (cf. 1 Tim 5:3ff). This woman is in a desperate situation where her very survival is likely at stake and she has no one to plead for her.

4. **The Confrontation and the Resolution** (vs.4-5)

It was convenience, not justice or compassion, that finally compelled the judge to execute his duty. Her persistent appeals were such an annoyance, by which he felt acutely bludgeoned, that he relented in his wickedness in granting justice.

5. **The Point of the Parable** (vs.6-8)

God is not an unrighteous judge (Ps. 89:14; Isa. 28:17), and the elect (v.7) are not destitute (2 Cor. 5:21) or without an advocate (cf. 1 John 2:1). Because of this, we can know for certain that God will bring about justice when He returns, and His delay is not because He is apathetic (2 Pet. 2:8-9). There is a strong connection between the faithfulness of a disciple and the earnest hope, prayer and expectation for the return of Christ (2 Pet. 3:11-15; 1 John 2:28; 3:3).

6. **Applications For Your Prayer Habits**

A. Pray with Positivity (v.1)

B. Pray with Persistence (vs.1-3; cf. Luke 11:8-10)

C. Pray amidst Persecution (v.3)

D. Pray to a Proponent (Luke 11:13; 1 John 2:1)

E. Pray Perpetually (Luke 5:16; Phil. 4:6-7; 1 Thess. 5:17-18)

F. Pray for the Parousia (Luke 11:2)