

# LUKE I Parable of the Unjust Judge Text: Luke 18:1-8

*The parable that was also a prophecy* —Bill Turner

1. **A few yrs ago the news reported on the college entrance bribery scandal...**
    - a. But Why would anyone risk breaking the law for their kids to enter certain universities?
  2. **Ben Shapiro graduated from Harvard Law & he explained why this would happen:**
    - When Ben entered Harvard—Ellena Kagan was the dean of Harvard Law—now on Supreme Court
    - At their Orientation, Keagan told them: That They We Now in the Club / the inner circle...
    - She listed all the powerful people from Harvard law—now in the upper echelons of power.
    - She told them that Now They Would Be the Rulers and Power Brokers of the Next Generation
  3. **This is why people covet these positions—and it is not new... but it is revealing**
    - a. Because some want to be Judges—not b/c they care about Truth—they care about power
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## I. THE PARABLE

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### A. THE JUDGE

1. **Think of the political corruption in the time of Jesus...**
  - a) The Sanhedrin—the Supreme Court of Israel was filled with corrupt rulers...

They are conspiring to kill Jesus so they won't loose their power
  - b) Roman Judges also had to rise through the ranks of political power to be appointed
  - c) They would rather be near the halls of power where the actions is...
  - d) Not a lonely outpost of the Empire settling disputes w/ Jewish peasants and widows
2. **But Here He Is—**
  - a) someone who didn't even become a judge because he loved justice
  - b) now assigned to a lonely outpost of the empire — being pestered by a poor widow!
3. **He does not fear God or care about people...**
  - a) He doesn't care about Justice—He Only Cares About HIMSELF!

### B. THE WIDOW

1. **She is Not pleading for Vengeance—but for justice against an adversary**
  - a) She is obviously alone... Widows are vulnerable and alone...
  - b) Scammers target widows and elderly for this reason
  - c) Jesus said the Pharisees devoured widows houses
  - d) Like the Way King Ahab and Queen Jezebel took Naboth's Vineyard
  - e) Selfish People Know How to Get What they Want
2. **But since you know the character of the judge—you know he doesn't care**
  - a) This woman has no money or power... she has no friends in high places
  - b) She cannot advance the career of this judge
  - c) And without money or Influence she has no hope of her case being heard
3. **She Only Has 1 Weapon—PERSISTENCE!<sup>1</sup> —and she's using it!**

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<sup>1</sup> Point made by William Barclay, Luke, 'Unwearied in Prayer'.

### **C. THE DECISION**

1. **Not Only is She wearing him out with her continual pleading...**
  - a) She is Incessant, Exasperating, and She Won't Stop!
2. **She is hurting his "reputation" —which is all he cares about**
  - a) I don't think he wants to be known as the Judge who was "hen-pecked" to death
3. **So he finally Decides in her favor—Just to Get Rid of Her!**
  - a) Not for the sake of this helpless widow...
  - b) not for the sake of what is right...
  - c) But for his own sake!

**It's Ironic a 'Powerful' Judge was worn down by the persistence of a poor widow!**

### **D. THE POINT**

1. **This is a Parable on Prayer... But Jesus is not *COMPARING* an Unjust Judge to God—He is *CONTRASTING***
2. **If a poor widow can wear down an unjust Judge who doesn't care...**
3. **Then How Much More Will God who is Just and who does care answer His own children who cry out day and night?!**

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## **II. THE PRINCIPLES**

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### **A. NO PERSON IS TOO SMALL AND NO PROBLEM IS TOO BIG FOR GOD**

<b><u>THE WIDOW</u></b>	<b><u>GOD'S PEOPLE</u></b>
A stranger	His children, He knows us
Only one	We are many
At a distance	We can go boldly before throne (He 4:16)
An unjust judge	A righteous Father
On her own	God is for us (Ro 8:31-32)
Pleads her own case	We have an Advocate (Ro 8:34)
No promise of an answer	Promised it will be given (Lk 18:8a)
Access limited	Access unlimited (anytime and anywhere)
Asking provoked judge	Asking delights God
Faced a selfish & unkind judge	Our God is merciful & compassionate

## **B. GOD WILL AVENGE HIS PEOPLE (v.7-8)**

### **1. Jesus even says: 'I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.' and these words of Jesus were literally fulfilled within their generation...**

- **HEROD ANTIPAS** Beheaded John the Baptist—He was later deposed by the Emperor Caligula and was banished by Rome
- **HEROD AGRIPPA** Killed James w/ the Sword and imprisoned Peter—He was promoted by the Emperor Caligula to take over Herod Anit's territories, —but he was struck down by an Angel as he was being praised as a god (Acts 12:21-23)
- **ROMAN EMPEROR NERO** Had Paul Beheaded and Peter Crucified in Rome. Nero was the first to label Christians as Enemies of the State. He had Christians thrown to the lions and impaled and lit as torches in his gardens.  
—But in time, Nero became so hated and paranoid after assassinating so many rivals that the Roman Senate finally labeled NERO enemy of the state. He knew this meant he could be killed on sight, so he asked his few fiends left to commit suicide in front of him so he could know how. When they refused he took out a knife and killed himself.
- **ROMAN EMPEROR CALIGULA** was the first emperor to demand worship as a god while he was still living. He decreed that a statue of himself be erected in all places of worship in the empire (including synagogues and even the Temple in Jerusalem) so he could be worshipped. His closest advisers convinced him not to put his statue in the Temple in Jerusalem, but Nevertheless, He instituted Caesar worship of himself as a living god.  
—Caligula was a megalomaniac who was infamous for his debauchery but he was assassinated by his own Praetorian Guard, who named Claudius (Caligula's uncle) emperor.
- **JEWISH RULERS IN JERUSALEM** continually persecuted the church. The same Jewish Rulers in Jerusalem who conspired to have Jesus crucified to protect their own power. **(Matthew 23:34–38 > Matthew 24:9–13).**  
—The judgement of God on that City shocked the world. The holy city, where the Holy Temple of God was located was completely destroyed. Not one stone left upon another.

### **2. The wrath of God is always against those who practice unrighteousness and who persecute His people (Psalm 37:12–17)**

## **C. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT SOMETIMES JUSTICE IS DELAYED (v.8)**

### **1. When the Roman Armies of General Vespasian surrounded Jerusalem he was going to starve the city before attacking it...**

- a) Archeologists have found the base of operations against Jerusalem on a plain...
- b) While his army arrayed against Jerusalem there was a power struggle in Rome
- c) A Power Struggle resulted in 3 Emperors dying in the span of a year...
- d) Suicide, Murder, Assassination from the Praetorian guard (deep-state king-makers)
- e) Vespasian took his army back to Rome and became the 4th emperor in one year.
- f) Then he sent his son Titus to lead his army back to Jerusalem to destroy the city
- g) This grace period of probably over a year allowed God's people to leave the city
- h) Eusebius said no Christians were killed because they heeded Jesus prophesy
- i) Josephus records they left the city and crossed the Jordon River at Pella safe.

## **2. THE POINT—Sometimes Justice is Delayed for the sake of the righteous!**

- a) Like the Parable of the Wheat and Tares the servants ask didn't you plant wheat?  
why are there thorns? Jesus said, an enemy has done this.
- b) They asked, Should we uproot the tares among the wheat?
- c) He said, No because if you uproot the tares, you will uproot some of the good wheat.
- d) Wait until the end of the harvest and angels will separate the wheat from the tares.

## **3. Those Who Harm God's People Will Answer to God!**

- a) Those Who Fight Against God—Will Answer to God!
- b) He will avenge His people—but in His proper time (**Revelation 6:10**)

## **D. THIS IS WHY WE MUST ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT LOOSE HEART (v.1)**

### **1. 'Casting all your anxieties on Him, for He cares for you!' (1 Pet. 5:6)**

- a) "let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:6)

### **2. God Wants You to Bring Your Worries and Cares to Him in Prayer!**

- a) Even if it feels like Everything in your life is falling apart around you
- b) Never Give Up—Never Loose Heart—Never Give in to Despair

### **3. Prayer Teaches Us to Depend on God! –and HE Knows What is Best!**

**Sometimes His Answer is: 1) NO... 2) Yes...**

**3) Yes but Not Yet... 4) Yes but not the way you think**

### **4. EX: When brother Andrew smuggled Bibles behind the Iron Curtain to the persecuted Christians living in fear...**

- a) They were brought to tears w/ hope by the Faith of this one man!
- b) They Thought They were Forgotten. The Weight of a godless totalitarian state had wore them down by fear and persecution.
- c) Their neighbors became paid informants for the state
- d) Some Christians were sent to Prison—There was no one they could trust
- e) Even Russian Orthodox Priests became informants on their own members
- f) Brother Andrew risked his life to bring them God's Word and Hope  
and they loved him for it!

### **5. Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find! (**Matthew 7:7–11**)**

### **Prayer is Such a Blessing!**

**We get to Take Our Anxieties and Requests to the Creator of Universe...**

**What Ever His Answer is We Can Sleep Easier at Night Knowing He Knows Best**

**"When you have accomplished all that you can, lie down and go to sleep.  
God is awake." (Victor Hugo)**

## **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. But Jesus asks: When He Returns will He even find faith on the earth?**
- 2. Daniel 12:1-3 The Battle Belongs to the Lord & We Know Who Wins!**