

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 18:1-8

LESSON: THE WIDOW AND THE UNJUST JUDGE—July 15, 2018

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus tells His disciples a parable concerning prayer. It is called the Parable of the unjust Judge. The purpose is to teach that God honors patience, persistence, and persevering prayer. Taking a hold of Jesus' words will be fruitful!

LESSON: I. PERSISTENCE REQUIRED LUKE 18:1-3

18:1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;— This means that prayer should be persistent; we should persevere in prayer. We are not to faint, meaning not to lose heart or give up. Why? Because there are great rewards, for God always answers with the right answer at the right time!

18:2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:— Jesus goes on to say that there was *"a judge in a city who didn't fear God, and neither regarded man."*

18:3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. A widow came to him and wanted him to avenge her of her adversary (her enemy).

II. PERSISTENCE REWARDED LUKE 18:4-5

18:4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;— But he would not for a while. This was the time for persistent prayer to come in. The judge began to say within himself that he didn't fear God nor regard man,

18:5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. YET...(The end had not yet come; there was another possibility coming). Yes, the judge thought he had truly made up his mind before, yet, there was another force at work! He said *"Yet because this widow troubleth me (her persistence troubled him), I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."* This meant that the judge honored her request because she continued to come and come; plead and plead, and not let him rest. She would not be silent!

III. PERSISTENCE REVIEWED LUKE 18:6-8

18:6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. But on the other hand, Jesus calls him an *"unjust judge."* Why? - Because he had no fear of God, and cared even less of what men said. He took bribes and gave favors to persons who held position and authority. He didn't care for conscience or law (but he was a judge). Jesus told them to hear what the unjust judge said. Let this sink in of what he said of himself.

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18:7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?— So if he was an evil unjust judge who was able to be worn down, *"Don't you think that God will surely give justice to His people who plead with Him day and night?"* The point is: God avenges His own elect which means when an enemy is coming against the elect, and the elect perseveres in prayer, crying out day and night, Jesus wants His disciples to know that if a widow goes and receives from a wicked unjust judge, how much the loving heavenly Father is there to avenge her adversary. God being longsuffering with unbelievers coming to Him for salvation, He bears long with His elect.

18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?— But, God will avenge His elect speedily, meaning in His time He will act suddenly, quickly, and without hesitation. The question Jesus asks *"will He find faith on the earth"* when He returns? A great tragedy will be that few men of faith and prayer will be found when He returns to earth. He's looking for faith; faithful men who perseveres in prayer.

SUMMARY:

The Parable starts off with *"Men ought always to pray and not faint."* This means that persistent prayer is required from the saints; we should persevere in prayer. We are not to faint meaning not to lose heart or give up. Why? Because there are great rewards, for God always answers with the right answer at the right time! (18:1). Jesus goes on to say that there was *"a judge in a city who didn't fear God, and neither regarded man"* (18:2). A widow kept coming, wanting justice against her adversary (**18:1-3**).

The judge didn't want to. He didn't fear God nor man (18:4). YET... (*The end had not yet come, there was another possibility coming*). Yes, the judge thought he had truly made up his mind before, yet, there was another force at work! He said *"Yet because this widow troubleth me (her persistence troubled him), I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me"* (18:5). This means the judge honored her request because she continued to come and come; plead and plead, and not let him rest. She would not be silent! It doesn't matter how long before the answer. Saints have to be persistent to receive the answer from the One who can give the answer. His reward is great! (**18:4-5**).

But on the other hand, Jesus calls him an *"unjust judge."* - Why? - Because he had no fear of God, and cared even less of what men said. He took bribes and gave favors to persons who held position and authority. He didn't care for conscience or law (but he was a judge). Jesus told them to hear what the unjust judge said of himself (18:6). So, him being an evil unjust judge was able to be worn down, *"Don't you think that God will surely give justice to His people who plead with Him day and night?"* The point is: God avenges His elect who persevere in prayer; crying out day and night when an enemy comes against them (18:7). His retaliation will be speedily for His elect, meaning in His time He will act suddenly, quickly, and without hesitation. The question Jesus asks *"will He find faith on the earth"* when He returns? He's looking for faith, faith that perseveres in prayer (18:8). (**18:6-8**).