

# THE UNJUST JUDGE Luke 18:1-8

## Problems with prayer.

- ▶ Is anyone really listening to us?
- ▶ Why aren't prayers answered?
- ▶ Some come to question God's good character, or existence.

## Parable of Unjust Judge given in response to these questions.

- ▶ The judge. Didn't care about religious principle or public opinion.
- ▶ Apparently cared just for himself.
- ▶ The Widow is synonymous with being poor and powerless.
- ▶ Persistent - "keeps coming"
- ▶ Give me justice against my adversary. Not punishment but what is due her, probably money.
- ▶ The result. Judge ignores her for a long time. Perhaps waiting for a bribe. Acts 24:26 Or just plain lazy.
- ▶ She keeps coming, and threatens him with- "Wear me out" he is weak.
- ▶ He is afraid she will literally punch him out, or "to give a black eye." or ruin his career.
- ▶ Her persistence and that alone gets her justice.

# Jesus compares God to the unjust judge.

- ▶ Similarity? - God isn't fair. He must be pestered for answers.
- ▶ Contrast - God is very fair.
- ▶ All that the judge is, God is not.
- ▶ The judge is selfish, God is not.
- ▶ The only similarity is their delayed response.
- ▶ The judge delayed because he was selfish.
- ▶ God's delay is the tarrying of love.

Point of parable: If even a corrupt judge can be brought to help a persistent widow, how much more will God help his

- ▶ followers who persist in prayer.
- ▶ "Should always pray" indicates not merely the duty but the necessity of persistent prayer. 18:1
- ▶ Only the persistence of the widow got her justice.
- ▶ Notice that the saints call out to God "day and night." 18:7
- ▶ "Will he put them off" could also be translated, "though he puts them off." 18:7
- ▶ What about the "speedy" justice in 18:8? "Quick" means it will be sudden, not necessarily soon.
- ▶ It is used of Second Coming of Jesus in Rev 22:20.
- ▶ Notice allusion to Second Coming in Luke 18:8.
- ▶ In prayer, though there appears to be a delay, when the time comes for God to answer, he will do it - quickly.

## Jesus and persistence.

- ▶ Jesus practiced persistence.
- ▶ 1) Gethsemane prayer was long - only gist is given. 22:42
- ▶ 2) There was time for disciples to fall asleep.
- ▶ Jesus commanded persistence. 1) "Ask, seek, knock" are in present tense. 11:9 2) Several other parables stress the importance of persistence. 3) Not vain repetition. Matt 6:7-8
- ▶ It is not repetition that is forbidden, but the fallacy that repetition itself works.
- ▶ Persistence is not a magical charm. Like Rosary and St. Jude prayers in "personals."
- ▶ Manipulative prayers in other circles

- ▶ **Most essential ingredient of prayer is to be a committed disciple. To understand prayer, we must understand the character of God.**
- ▶ **How your view of God affects how you pray. If you think of God as a bully, you won't have much**
- ▶ **confidence in praying to him.**
- ▶ **Persistence in prayer shows our devotion, not God's stinginess. Some feel persistence is inappropriate in prayer.**
- ▶ **You never need to stop persisting in prayer. Some prayers never seem to be answered, not matter how persistent we are.**

# Jesus is coming back.

- ▶ Will you be a Christian?
- ▶ Will you be faithfully persisting in prayer?
- ▶ Persistence in prayer Maybe Unpopular or Shows a lack of faith?
- ▶ It Scriptural in NT and Jesus practiced it.

- ▶ Parable of Unjust Judge. "Should always pray" indicates not merely the duty but necessity of persistent prayer.
- ▶ Only the persistence of the widow got her justice.
- ▶ Application by Jesus. All that the judge is, God is not.
- ▶ The judge is selfish, God is not.
- ▶ The point of similarity is their delayed response. The judge delayed because he was selfish.
- ▶ God's delay is the waiting tarrying of love. The "quick" answer in 18:8 means it will be sudden, not necessarily soon. It is used of in Rev 22:20. Parousia -God's timing

# Jesus practiced persistence.

- ▶ Gethsemane prayer was long - only gist is given.
- ▶ There was time for disciples to fall asleep.
- ▶ Jesus commanded persistence. "Ask, seek, knock" are in present tense.
- ▶ 2) Not vain repetition.      Matt 6:7-8
- ▶ It is not repetition that is forbidden, but the fallacy that repetition itself works.
- ▶ Persistence is not a magical charm.

## Rationale for persistent prayer.

- ▶ Jesus never taught "why" in persistence.
- ▶ God is interested in us and doesn't have to be worn down.
- ▶ God doesn't need to be changed.

## Two basic truths:

- ▶ The one who knows the answer must be willing to give it.
- ▶ The one seek in the answer must be able to receive it.
- ▶ God doesn't become more willing, but we become more capable of receiving an answer.
- ▶ Persistence enlarges our capacity to receive what God desires to give.

- ▶ Persistence clarifies our minds and segregates deep-seated desire from fleeting whims.
- ▶ Persistence - purifies both the request and the petitioner.
- ▶ It strengthen desire and prepare the soul for full appreciation and right use of the answer.
- ▶ Without persistence, Christians would become complacent.
- ▶ God reminds us we are dependent on him.

