

LESSON 17:
The Life Of Christ –
The Parable of the
Importunate Woman

Luke 18:1-8

March 2, 2022

Persistent Prayer: The Unjust
Judge (Luke 18:1-8)

Luke 18:1, "And he spake a parable unto them to the end that they ought always to pray, and not to faint"

- Similar to Luke 11:5-8.
- "Them" – The disciples.
- Absolute necessity.
- "Always" – cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- "Not to faint" – (*egkakeo*) in all New Testament passages: to be afraid, to become discouraged, to become weary or tired, to despair, to lose heart, to tire of. (Strong)
 - Proverbs 24:10, "If thou faint in the day of adversity, Thy strength is small."
 - cf. Isaiah 40:29-31
 - 2 Corinthians 4:1, 16; Galatians 6:9; Ephesians 3:13; Hebrews 12:5

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Luke 18:2, "Saying, There was in a city a judge, who feared not God, and regarded not man"

➤ Those who judged in Israel were to be "men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness" (Exodus 18:21-22; see also, Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy 1:16-17; 24:17-18; 2 Chronicles 19:6-7).

➤ This judge:

"who feared not God" – *phobeō*: "to fear, be afraid; the Sept. very often for absolutely to be struck with fear, to be seized with alarm" (Thayer)

- Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom; And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

"and regarded not man" – *entrepoo* "to reverence a person" (Thayer) Deuteronomy. 27:19

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Luke 18:3, "And there was a widow in that city; and she came oft unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary."

- In the law, the widow was the ultimate example of the oppressed person. She had no means of support (Exodus 22:22-24; Psalms 146:9; Isaiah 1:17, 23; Jeremiah 7:6-7; Lamentations 1:1-2).

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Luke 18:3, "And there was a widow in that city; and she came oft unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary."

- That she came repeatedly and persistently becomes the object of the parable.
- It was to get rid of this "continual coming" that the judge at length gave her attention.
- Avenge – *ekdikoo* "to vindicate one's right, to do justice ... to protect, defend, one person from another" (Thayer)
 - Acts 7:24; Revelation 6:10; cf. Matthew 5:25

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Luke 18:4-5, "And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest she wear me out by her continual coming."

- Note again Luke 11:5-8 – His motive for helping her was not honorable.
- He is not interested in justice ... "see that she gets justice," (NIV) because it is just and right. Rather, he "gives her legal protection" (NASB) because by her continual coming, she is a nuisance to him.

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Luke 18:4-5, “... *I will avenge her, lest she wear me out by her continual coming.*”

- “Wear me out” - *hupæpiásœ*
- “To strike under the eyes, beat the face black and blue, give a black eye. In the NT generally to mistreat... spoken of the body, to subject to hardship, mortify (1 Cor 9:27). Figuratively to weary with prayers, entreaties, to tire out someone... (Luke 18:5).”

(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

Persistent Prayer: The Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)

Luke 18:6, “*And the Lord said, Hear what the unrighteous judge saith.*”

➤ **The application of the parable is prayer ...**

NOTE: Luke 18:1, “*And he spake a parable unto them to the end that they ought always to pray, and not to faint*”

NOTE: The woman in the parable was desperate!

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Prayer makes a difference!

God gives power through prayer to the child of God over the events of nations and rulers. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

1. The fate of Sodom and Gomorrah hung upon ten righteous souls and one praying man. Genesis 18:20ff
2. Moses lifted his arms in prayer during the battle against Amalek. The course of the struggle varied according as he held his arms high or let them drop in weariness. Exodus 17:11ff
3. Note the example of David. Psalms 3:1-4; 7:1-2; 94:1-3

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Prayer makes a difference!

4. We may pray for peace. Jeremiah 29:7; 1 John 5:14-15
 5. For favorable weather. James 5:17-18
 6. For liberation from tyranny. Jeremiah 18:1-12; Daniel 2:20-21
- If prayer as a power in the world is to be taken seriously, then this is a message that should cause us to wake up!
- The parable is designed to teach us that, though our prayers should appear to be unanswered, we should persevere, and not grow weary in supplication to God.