

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 12

The Unjust Judge

AIM: to teach my pupils the importance of prevailing prayer.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils if there has ever been anything that they have wanted very badly. They kept asking; they kept begging, and they kept bothering until they got it. Ask them if there is anything that they want very badly now. Tell them that this lesson can show them how to get it if it is right to have.

INTRODUCTION: Read the Scripture, Luke 18:1-8, and tell the story of the judge and the widow. Then lead into its teaching.

I. WHY THE LADY NEEDED HELP. Notice Luke 18:3.

1. She was a widow. This means that she was helpless. There was no one in those days so helpless and oftentimes so hated as a widow.
2. She had been mistreated. Notice the words, "Avenge me." In other words, somebody had done her wrong. Maybe someone had swindled her out of what little money she had. Maybe someone had mistreated her. At any rate, she was in need of help because she had been mistreated.
3. She had an enemy. Notice the words, "mine adversary." Someone was her enemy. There was no one quite so helpless against an enemy as a widow. Consequently, she needed help.

II. WHAT SHE DID TO GET HELP.

1. She came to the person who could give it. Read Luke 18:2, 3. The only one who can give us help is God. Let us be sure we come to Him for help.
2. She kept coming for help. In Luke 18:5, notice the words, "...this widow troubleth me." We might tell the story like this: She came to the judge for help in the courtroom. She said, "I need help, Judge. Someone has wronged me." The judge brushed her aside and said, "She is a widow. Take her out of the courtroom." A while later, more people came in for another case. The judge did not realize it, but the widow came in too. "What do you want, little lady?" asked the judge. "Someone has wronged me," she said, "and I need help." The judge said, "Aren't you the one who came in here a while ago? Throw her out!" The judge finished his day's work. As he stepped out the side door to get into his car, the same little widow said, "Judge, someone has wronged me. I need your help." The judge brushed her aside and said, "Leave me alone. You are 'warring me to death'." He got in his car and drove home. When he got home, the telephone was ringing. He answered it, and it was the voice of the widow saying, "Judge, someone has wronged me, and I need help." He slammed the telephone down, and a little while later, he heard the doorbell ring. He went to the door, and the telegraph boy said, "Telegram for you, Judge." The judge signed for the telegram, opened it, and read these words: "Dear Judge: I am the widow. Someone has wronged me, and I need help." The judge tore up the telegram and threw it down. The paper boy came. As the paper boy was leaving, he said, "By the way, Judge, I saw a lady a while ago who said she was a widow and that she needed help because someone had wronged her." The judge said, "You tell her I am tired of listening to her." The judge put on his house-shoes and started reading his newspaper. All of a sudden he heard a loudspeaker out in front saying, "Judge, someone has wronged me. I need help." He tried to get some sleep, but all he could think about was that widow. He left the next morning, and there she was on the front doorstep saying, "Judge, someone has wronged me. I need your help." Finally, the judge said, "Okay. I will help you if you will leave me alone! I am troubled! If you will quit bothering me, I will help you!"
3. She wearied him. See Luke 18:5b. The word "weary" here is from the Greek word for the part of the face below the eyes. In other words, the judge was saying, "My eyes are getting red. I have bags under my eyes and circles under my eyes. My eyes are bloodshot because you have kept me awake and kept on bothering me. Okay, okay, I will do what you request if you will quit bothering me."

III. WHY GOD OFTENTIMES WAITS. Of course, the simple teaching of the parable is that we must keep praying. It is summed up in Luke 18:1, where it says, "...men ought always to pray, and not to faint." This means, "Men should not stop praying," or "Men ought not quit praying." We ought to keep praying and keep petitioning God. Oftentimes, God waits to answer our prayer. Especially is this the case if there is something big we want, such as the power of God upon our lives, soul-winning power, the answer to some great need, etc. There are reasons why God waits:

1. God will not give His power to immature Christians. Until we have become mature in prayer, God will not give us His power. An illustration of this is an earthly parent and an earthly child. We say to our little children, "Do not play with the wall plug." We say to our younger children, "You are too young to drive a car." The reason for this is that there is a certain maturity that must come before the privilege to use powerful instruments can be granted.
2. God wants us to be in dead earnest. It is not a light thing to ask God for something big. God wants to know if we really mean it.
3. Oftentimes God lingers until we get right. Our sins separate us from getting our prayers answered.
4. God waits because we do not believe. Oftentimes, when we first start praying, we do not believe God will answer. After much praying and much praying and more praying, our faith is increased, and God answers in honor of our faith.
5. Perhaps the most unusual reason that God waits is because God enjoys our presence. We spend so little time with God and stay with Him so little until, no doubt, He just waits to answer us because He loves to hear us talk with Him and enjoys our presence.

IV. THE GENERAL TEACHINGS OF THE PARABLE.

1. If a wicked judge can finally be worn down, how much more will God give to us! He is loving and kind and just. He will hear us, and He will answer us!
2. Pleading gets results. Occasionally, someone who knows little or nothing about the power of God will make light of travailing, pleading prayer. It is certainly a Bible truth that prevailing, pleading prayer is God's way to get things.
3. It is interesting here that God did not use a rabbi, priest or preacher to illustrate getting things. He used a widow, and at that, a poor widow; even more, a poor widow who had an enemy; and even more, a poor widow with an enemy who had mistreated her. God is giving us an example here that He will hear the poor as well as the rich; He will hear the widow as soon as He will hear the preacher, and oftentimes more so. This teaches that God will hear anyone's prayers—at least anyone who is His child.