

Parables of Luke, Lesson 3, January 21, 2020

Lk. 18:1-6 Jesus, the master of the simple story with a profound spiritual message.

1. The Judge

The judge has a very simple, but very well-chosen description. He's the worst a person can be in this life: No reverence for God and care for people.

He's indifferent to the demands of God and the needs of people.

Additionally, he knows that he is this way and is quite comfortable with it.

This has huge implications for whoever was unfortunate enough to be in his jurisdiction.

A legal system only works properly one way; those who enforce and interpret the Law have to fear God and be the servants of people. **II Chron. 19:4-7.**

"Respect"== such a crucial indicator of where this guy was. This was a culture that worked off of shame and honor.

In that culture, you did what brought honor at all cost and you avoided what brought shame at all cost.

When a wicked person of this level is in power of any kind, it has devastating consequences to society since they are making decisions that affect peoples' lives.

2. The Widow

This woman is in the worst possible situation. She is destitute financially, but also she is destitute because she has no man in her life.

The courts belonged to men in those days; men sat in the gates as elders and men dealt with men in matters of justice.

She is destitute, powerless, helpless, deprived, lowly, unknown, unprotected, uncared for; the last person who could ever expect to get justice. She has no hope of any sympathy from this judge.

Jesus is painting these extreme pictures with just a minimal amount of language!!!

3. Her ploy V. 3 She keeps coming back! She does not give up.

4. The Result V. 4

We get soliloquy from him kind of like the prodigal son, speaking to himself about his situation.

He's a self-confessed wretch with no noble motives.

"Continually" literally means "forever"

"She will wear me out"; a boxing term used by Paul. **I Cor. 9:27** = "she will keep beating me with this."

The powerful wicked judge is defeated by a powerless woman through her persistence. That is the main point of the story.

5. What is the intent of this story?

Another place where we tend to pull the story out of its context both in the context of its culture and in the context of where it is situated in the Bible.

Parables of Luke, Lesson 3, January 21, 2020, Continued

V. 1

Pray specifically about what? Can be applied to prayer in general, but the context applies it to a specific type of prayer.

Look back at the previous chapter (remember chapter breaks can be quite arbitrary and even misleading) **V. 22** who is He speaking to? Disciples. What is He speaking about? His second coming!

In Chapter **18:1** there is no audience or scene change. "He was telling them" with regards to His delay in coming and the difficulty of the times between His first and second comings "that they should always pray and never lose heart"; that is the context! **V. 8**

How many prayed that Jesus would come today? Isn't that exactly what He taught us to do?

Not only does Jesus tell us to pray that way but that we, like the widow, should never lose heart in praying that way.

Christians, quite often, don't know what to do or how to handle day to day issues because we have no real sense of our destination.

When we know how it ends and keep that in view at all times, we know how to prorate our money, time, and energies.

How we handle our lives day to day should be powerfully influenced by strong and persistent prayer that Jesus comes!

If a wicked judge will protect a powerless widow, how much more will the righteous Judge protect His own.

As we cry to Him, how often? **V. 7?** Do you do that? **I Thess. 1:10**

We can't live our lives the way the Lord wants unless we live it in the light of the Second Coming.

It colors all else that we pray. **Mt. 6:10**

We are comforted in it: **II Thess. 4:13-17**

We are purified by it. **I Jn. 3:2-3**

We are driven to reach others for Christ. **II Cor. 5:10-11**