



Today's Message

Date: December 12, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas

Title: *The Unjust Judge: A Study in Contrasts*

Text: Luke 18:1–8 (ESV)

¹ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Introduction: Chapter 17 ended with Jesus' description of his Second Coming. When he returns to establish his kingdom, he will return to vindicate his people and judge those who persist in rejecting him. The theme of Jesus' return continues into chapter 18 (cf. 18:8) where Jesus instructs his disciples about kingdom prayer.

I. The point of the parable: Jesus' disciples must pray. 1

- A. Keep praying, "Thy kingdom come."
- B. Keep praying, even though you don't see the answer.

II. The details of the parable: A story of injustice and persistence. 2-5

- A. A wicked judge withheld justice from a helpless widow.
- B. In the end, he gave her justice because he tired of her relentless persistence.

III. The application of the parable: God also will deliver justice, but for different reasons. 6-8a

- A. Unlike the judge, God loves those who pray to him.
- B. Unlike the judge, God listens to those who pray to him.
- C. Unlike the judge, God cares about the plight of those who pray to him.
- D. Unlike the judge, God is determined to vindicate those who pray to him.

IV. Jesus asked greater question: 8b

- A. The question is not, *can* we trust God to do what he has promised?
- B. The question is, *will* we trust God to do what he has promised?

Today's take-home truth: Keep praying for Jesus' return and do not become discouraged if God does not answer your prayer today; always trust the One who promised to vindicate his people.