



The Parable of the Persistent Widow

3 December 2021

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

'The Persistent Widow' (**Luke 18:1-8**), an impoverished, defenseless woman (the widow) persists in worrying a corrupt, powerful person (the judge) to do justice for her. It is interesting to note that in this parable, it demonstrates opposites ends of the social spectrum with the society structure. It is the principle of the teachings, within the scriptures of John the Baptist, that the responsibility of those in power need to take care of and legitimately represent those that do not have a voice into their specific areas of concern.

In the first verse of Luke 18 Jesus directs us in calling out the unjust judge, that we need to be praying without ceasing to God the Father to hear our call for

justice. The point of the parable is to show us that persistence is the action that changes the heart of the unjust judge, the action of praying to our Heavenly Father is an expression of this action, is the working out of our faith. This is an expression of our faith in something that compels us, for the need for justice. God in His infinite wisdom is teaching us to persist in the justice that is required, for those that don't receive justice. That we may truly, believe in what we are pursuing, that we may grow into the character and standing that God requires of us, for which Christ has called us to be in the Body of Christ. His Kingdom, comes to fruition as we work through Christ Jesus that through faith, God is glorified, that all may come to know Jesus Christ as our Savior.

The resolve is to encourage Christians to continue in their faith against all odds. There are two applications for those who work in positions of leadership. Primarily, the judge's role is to do justice, and through God, he will do justice by the time the widow is finished with him. The contrast of a corrupt judge with a just God implies that God's will is at work, even in a corrupt world.

The Scriptures teaches that the civil authorities serve by God's authorization, whether they acknowledge it or not (***John 19:11; Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13***). So there is hope that even in the midst of systemic injustice; justice may be done. A Christian leader's job is to work toward that hope at all times. We cannot right every wrong in the world in our lifetimes, but we must never give up hope, and never stop working for the greater good in the midst of the imperfect systems where our work occurs.

Secondly, is that only God can bring about justice in a corrupt world. That is why we must pray and not give up in our work. God can bring miraculous justice in a corrupt world, just as God can bring miraculous healing in a sick world. Suddenly, the Berlin wall opens, the apartheid regime crumbles, peace breaks out. The challenge the denomination has, is to recognise the way in which the Lord has been working, in the past and continues today and tomorrow until His work is done.

What are we doing within the denomination for those, that are in need of assistance in a society that has generally, been left alone to fend for themselves?

Where are the Churches prophetic voices, to speak into a society that it, leads and administers?

A final thought, that may spur you on, Peoples with Disabilities (PWD) have a voice; their language is voiced as a unique sound. However, it not being heard by the leaders in society, they are not willing to comprehend the cry of those in need. A powerful voice expressed across the majority of the population from South Africa to the north of Africa, are Peoples with Disabilities (PWD)

In the 'Parable of the Mina's' (**Luke 19 :12 – 27**) when the landlord returns and discovers how the responsibilities given to his workers with his investment only one is found wanting. This specific calling or command makes it clear that preaching, healing, and evangelism (the apostles' callings) are not the only things God calls people to do. The one that did nothing was stripped of the mina, and given to the one who dealt responsibly with all that had been given, rewarding him with greater responsibility, the irresponsible one had everything taken from him.

²⁶ "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

What are we doing with our "Mina's that is, Peoples with Disabilities(PWD) in the life of the community of our church? Where is the prophetic voice of the Church with an African context?

Caring Father,

You faithfully keep watch over us, never ceasing from making sure we are safe,

and never taking Your eyes off us as you guard us. Though we may run into trouble,

we know that You will continue to give us the strength to keep our feet firmly planted in the right direction.

When we struggle, give us the peace to realize that You have freed our paths from unnecessary problems.

In the face of adversity, keep us steadfast so that we may persevere by the assurance of Your faithful presence.

Amen. <https://connectusfund.org/25-powerful-prayers-for-perseverance>

