

# The Parable of the Unjust Judge

## MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

In a fallen world, corruption and oppression are not strangers, even to Christians. Sadly, those who profess faith in Christ sometimes participate in corrupt and oppressive practices. At other times, Christians may find themselves to be the objects of exploitation, persecution, and scorn. Though it can be tempting to give in to despair or to lash out in anger, God calls his people to respond prayerfully in all circumstances. In this lecture Dr. Sproul will examine the parable of the unjust judge, which reveals God to be the great Refuge and Advocate of those who are in need.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Luke 18:1-8

## TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To describe the differences between allegorical and non-allegorical approaches to interpreting the parables of Jesus.
2. To present and exegete the parable of the unjust judge in Luke 18:1-8.
3. To promote a spirit of persistence in prayer among Christ's followers.
4. To encourage believers to look to God for deliverance and hope in the midst of their trials.

## QUOTATIONS

*It is not right to search curiously, and word by word, into all things in a parable; but when we have learned the object for which it was composed, we are to reap this, and not to busy ourselves about anything further.*  
–John Chrysostom

*We know that perseverance in prayer is a rare and difficult attainment; and it is a manifestation of our unbelief that, when our first prayers are not successful, we immediately throw away not only hope, but all the ardor of prayer. But it is an undoubted evidence of our faith, if we are disappointed of our wish, and yet do not lose courage. Most properly, therefore, does Christ recommend to his disciples to persevere in praying.*  
–John Calvin

*We ought to concern ourselves for the persecuted and oppressed churches, and to pray that God would do them justice, and set them in safety. And herein we must be very urgent; we must cry with earnestness: we must cry day and night, as those that believe prayer will be heard at last; we must wrestle with God, as those that know how to value the blessing, and will have no nay. God's praying people are told to give him no rest.*  
–Matthew Henry

## BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do Christians need to be reminded and encouraged to be persistent in prayer? What are some reasons why Christians might lose heart and give in to despair? Why is it significant that Jesus told a parable to encourage Christians to pray persistently?
2. Describe the widow's situation in Luke 18:3. How did the judge respond to the widow? How does the judge's response to the widow compare to God's response to His people who are in need?
3. What does "importunate" mean? What does it mean to be importunate in prayer?
4. At first glance, Luke 18:7-8, may appear to imply that God will always furnish swift and satisfactory answers to the prayers of His people. How should these verses be understood? Should Christians lose heart when God does not seem to be answering our prayers? Explain your answer.