

Luke 18:1-8 Parable on Prayer (Amplified)

Parable: an apparently simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, to teach a great truth or to challenge the hearers to change their own behavior.

Now **Jesus** was telling the disciples a parable to always make the point that they ought to **pray and not give up and lose heart**,² saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and had no respect for man.³ There was a **[desperate] widow** in that city and she kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice *and* legal protection from my adversary.’⁴ For a time he would not; but later he said to himself, ‘Even though **I do not fear God nor respect man**,⁵ yet because this widow *continues* to bother me, I will give her justice *and* legal protection; otherwise by continually coming she [will be an intolerable annoyance and she] will wear me out.’”⁶ Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says!⁷ And will not [our just] God defend *and* avenge His elect [His chosen ones] who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay [in providing justice] on their behalf?⁸ I tell you that He will defend *and* avenge them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?”

Matthew 18-19-20

“Again I say to you, that if two believers on earth agree [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] about anything that they ask [within the will of God], **it will be done for them** by My Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in My name [meeting together as My followers], I am there among them.”

Psalm 7:1-2

O LORD my God, in You I take refuge; Save me and rescue me from all those who pursue me,² So that my enemy will not tear me like a lion, dragging me away while there is no one to rescue [me].

Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

⁹ He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves *and* were confident that they were righteous [posing outwardly as upright and in right standing with God], and who viewed others with contempt:¹⁰ “Two men went up into the temple [enclosure] to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.¹¹ The Pharisee stood [ostentatiously] and began praying to himself [in a self-righteous way, saying]: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like the rest of men—swindlers, unjust (dishonest), adulterers—or even like this tax collector.¹² I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’¹³ But the tax collector, standing at a distance, would not even raise his eyes toward heaven, but was striking his chest [in humility and repentance], saying, ‘**God, be merciful and gracious to me**, the [especially wicked] sinner [that I am]!’¹⁴ I tell you, this man went to his home justified [forgiven of the guilt of sin and placed in right standing with God] rather than the other man; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself [forsaking self-righteous pride] will be exalted.”