

Luke 18:1-8 Pray-er: Expect Jesus to give you righteousness, quickly! 3rd Dec 17
(NIV Pew Bible Page 1051)

Context

1] J asked by Pharisees - when ...the Kingdom of God. It is now within /among you)
(17:20,21)

2] J to Disciples –(the Kingdom completely) when Son of Man returns in Glory–be ready(22-37)

???

The judge did not fear God / man (2) - He represents God but he is the antithesis of Him

Main Point

Disciples /chosen ones of Jesus should pray incessantly for righteousness to come in their own life and throughout the earth

Key Verse

“Jesus told them a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up” (1)

The situation (1)

1] then

ie following on from the Kingdom coming in fullness

2] Parables -

the King / God? Us? One point?

Nb Parables disguise the news of the Kingdom of God (8:10)

3] to disciples

God wants us to know / learn

Listen to what Jesus wants to show us!

4] Pray persistently for Kingdom to come

Nb Prayer in context of the second coming (17:22f; 21:36)

Cf Lord's prayer (11:4)

God expects prayer and persistence

Pray (for the Kingdom) for righteousness.

Pray persistently / continuously.

The parable (of the Kingdom) (2-5)

1] Judge – neither feared God or cared about men

Cf Fear of God+ ve(12:5; 23:40, 2 Cor 8:21)

E.g. Pharisees - neglect justice and the love of God (11:42)

Nb judge = amoral + no Law I.e. antithesis of the Lord

God is not 'coy' about who He likens himself too

2] Woman (3)

a) Widow – no rights / leverage

cf Raising of Widow of Nain's dead son (7:12)

b) Kept coming

i.e. persistence all she had

c) Grant me justice / righteousness

nb 'Justify' – gk root is 'righteous' cf (Rom 4:3,5; Gen 15:6 Ps 23:3)

d) Against opponent - in Law

cf

Adversary and judge (12:58)

cf Rmns 7:25-8:1)

3] Resolution – quick & favourable

I.e. judge grants ONLY to give himself a break (4, 5)

Application (6-8)

1] God responds to (7a)

a) those who demand righteousness

God wants to bring righteousness to His people

b) Chosen ones (Eph 1:4; John 15:16)

cf

Children of Israel / the chosen ones (1 Chron 16:13)

GRACE God is sovereign – He chooses

c) the persistent – day and night

2] He acts quickly (7b, 8a)

Cf Pardon / righteousness is given quickly to thief on the cross (23:43)

Expect God to answer your prayers quickly for righteousness

3] However

a) When the Son of man comes (8b)

Cf (17:22-24)

b) Will He find faith?

cf Increase our faith (17:5); Faith as a mustard seed (17:6) your faith has made you well (17:19)

c) On earth

Nb In all the earth (Ps 100:1)

JESUS is coming back looking for faith in Himself

Be ready for Jesus' return by putting faith in Him

Summary

Jesus continues to tell them to pray unceasingly for the Kingdom to come. (1)

He tells a parable of the weakest, successfully wearing down the judge as she seeks justice against her adversary (2-5)

He concludes that God will give righteousness immediately to His chosen ones who simply ask Him. When Jesus returns, this saving faith is what he will look for. (6-8)