"**Parable of the Persistent Widow!**"

Luke 18:1-8

1. The Unjust/Unrighteous Judge!

- Luke 18:1-2
- This judge did not fear God at all or care about anyone! Verse 6
- Only bribery and self-satisfaction could move this bad judge to do something!
- *The widow has ZERO resources* to do anything **for the judge**...but what she does have is Persistence!!!
- *The power of being Persistent is a force to be reckoned with!*
- The widow is facing a bad situation against an adversary who is exploiting her and coming after her! Look at Isaiah 1:17 & 23!
- **The judge did not care about his reputation at all!** He only wanted to be known as THE MAN!
- No one tells him what to do! Luke 18:2 "*did not fear man*" = could care less about what people thought about him!
- *Again, what hit this guy's button was that the lady was persistent!*
- **The Big Idea** here is that if an unjust, unrighteous and reluctant judge can be moved by persistence...how much more would the heart of Jesus, the righteous judge, be moved when we come to Him in prayer? And He wants us to do that!
- What a loving God that we have today!
- Also, Jesus will vindicate every single situation where you have been wronged! He see's it all! Remember Romans 12:19 last Sunday?
- Yet, while we live here on this earth, and wait for Him to return again...it *SEEMS* like He is taking forever. But...that is not the truth!
- 2 Peter 3:9 *"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think..."*
- See, the DELAY has a reason! Let's look at it...

2. This parable shows that the Persistent Widow feels the DELAY of the Judge giving not justice! Luke 18:4 & 7

- **Obviously Jesus is not the bad and evil judge in the story!** But, the story shows how if a bad judge finally gives justice...what about Jesus who is the Good and Righteous Judge? He certainly is not slow! He will return again! He will bring justice! Hebrews 9:28

- Jesus has not returned yet obviously, but it seems delayed to us because we want justice and things made right! Luke18:7 / I Corinthians 16:22 / Revelation 22:20!
- Look at Luke 18:8 though! "*Hastily* and *Speedily*!"
- Now look at 2 Peter 3:9-12! "*Speed up its coming*!" This is an incredible thought!
- **Speedily** = *Hasten Quickly, Eagerly Waiting* and *Being Zealous for that Day*!
- The 2nd coming of Christ is solely determined by God...not man!
- But, other events that surround it must happen as well, and *WE are involved as believers in so many things that happen on this earth for God*!
- Look at **Prayer** in Luke 11:2 and **Obedience** in Luke 11:11! These encourage us as Christians *to do our part* in faithfulness!
- **Point? Our words and actions do matter BEFORE the 2nd coming of Christ!**
- The FASTER we share Jesus with people and they find Him...the faster His return!
- **FACT**: We do not know when the day or hour is...only God! But, as the Church remains faithful...the 2nd coming of Christ is nearer!
- 2 Peter 3:14 – "*Since we are waiting for these...*" 2 Peter 1:10!
- Did you know that God's DELAY of Jesus coming back a 2nd time is actually His KINDNESS and MERCY? 2 Peter 3:9!

Closing: The point of the Parable is that you need be ready for Christ's 2nd return by NEVER giving up and KEEP on Praying!

- Luke 18:1!
- This reference to the 2nd coming of Christ shows that *persistent prayer* for the coming of His final triumph! Don't give up! Have ENDURANCE!!!!
- **Why? Triumph over all evil!**
- Until Christ comes again, we can be confident that He is working all things together for our good in every situation because He loved you and you love Him! Romans 8:28
- But, the **MAIN THING** for us is at the end of Verse 8 – "**will He find faith?**"
- At the 2nd coming of Christ, sin and rebellion will be predominant! Will He find faith in you right now and even later throughout your life?
- I want to hear the words of Jesus one day when I stand before Him in Matthew 25:21 – "*Well done my good and faithful servant*!"