

Which Jesus do we See and Preach? V

“Jesus of the disenfranchised”

Luke 18:1-8 widow and unjust judge

NLT Luke 18:1 One day **Jesus** told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. ² “There was **a judge** in a certain city,” he said, “who **neither feared God nor cared about people.** ³ **A widow** of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, ‘**Give me justice** in this dispute with my enemy.’ ⁴ **The judge** ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, ‘I don’t **fear God or care about people,** ⁵ but **this woman** is driving me crazy. I’m going to see that she **gets justice,** because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!’ ⁶ Then **the Lord** said, “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. ⁷ Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So, don’t you think **God** will surely **give justice** to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you; he will **grant justice** to them quickly! But when the **Son of Man** returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?”

To disenfranchise means to **deprive** of a legal right, or of some privilege or immunity.

To be disenfranchised means to be the **person** who is deprived of a legal right, some privilege or immunity.

- Women and especially widows were disenfranchised then as well as now.

I

This is an **unusual** and **unlikely** pair to be in the same space.

The participants in the parable are a powerful antagonist and insignificant protagonist.

The judge who feared not God and had no care or regard for man. *Vs 2*

A widow who has a cry for justice. *Vs 3*

A widow who will not leave well enough alone.

God who hears the cry for justice will vindicate the disenfranchised.

The chosen people are told to cry aloud and *continue*. *Vs 7*

The **Son of man** who ends with a question. *Vs 8*

II

The judge is *unjust* and *unmoved*.

Judges are to be just and do *only justice*.

ESV Deuteronomy 16:18 “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the LORD your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall **judge the people with righteous judgment**.

¹⁹ **You shall not pervert justice.** You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. ²⁰ **Justice, and only justice**, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Unjust judges dishonor God and hurt people.

This judge was stubborn and unyielding.

- Cry for justice for the oppressed.

II

The widow is unyielding in her pursuit of justice. Vs 3

The widow was among the most vulnerable.

NLT Zechariah 7:9 “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: Judge fairly, and show mercy and kindness to one another. ¹⁰ Do not oppress **widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor**. And do not scheme against each other.

“The quartet of the vulnerable” was coined by *Justice Nicholas Wolterstorff* The Church’s One Foundation

NLT Psalm 82:2 How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked? “Give justice to the **poor and the orphan**; uphold the rights of the **oppressed and the destitute**. ⁴ Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. ⁵ But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core.

Women were not heard in legal matters in that day.

She had no uncle, brother, son or nephew to plead her cause.

She uses the tool of persistence from day to day and place to place.

- Be persistent in your cause and prayer!

III

The judge changes his mind because the woman is undeterred in her quest.

The judge said: *Amp Luke 17:5* 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."

"Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never has and never will" *Frederick Douglas*

- Keep praying!

IV

This is an *nusual* summary.

A woman is the hero of the story.

As the saints and martyrs have known for ages, prayer can conquer fear.

Persistence in prayer is *appropriate* for the believer until there is an answer.

Unlike the woman, the believer faces a *loving* Father, not an unjust Judge.

God will vindicate his elect.

- Vindication is assured in spite of our failures.
- The end times will be hard and will test our faith. *Vs 8*

Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes *Kenneth E Bailey*