



Sermon Growth Guide

September 28, 2025

Justice

Luke 18:1-8

Key Verse: Luke 18:7 “And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?”

Big Idea: When we seek justice, persistence in prayer to a loving God is essential.

Foundations

This is one of the many parables that Jesus tells as He is on His way to Jerusalem. They are not stories to pass the time while they are on their journey. Jesus knows why Jerusalem is the destination. He is on His way to fulfill His saving purpose for the world. He knows what He will be facing, but He also knows that His followers do not yet understand what is going to happen. They will be thrown into confusion and severe controversies. The parables are meant to prepare and encourage the disciples for the times ahead.

By the time we reach this point in the story, we have witnessed the healing of lepers with a lesson in gratitude. We have heard Jesus speak about sin and forgiveness and the Kingdom of God. And we have heard graphic descriptions of those who ignore the fact that the Son of Man will come in power.

Clearly, Jesus is teaching that there will be confusion, surprise and unpreparedness when God comes to visit His people. There will be injustice because of human selfishness and things will not be as they should be. People will yearn for justice.

So, this widow, already shoved to the outer limits of society because she is a widow, has also suffered an unnamed injustice for which she seeks a lawful outcome. She pounds on the judge's door until, exasperated, he grants her request. Jesus tells us that there are things that we should pray for, knowing that God will make right what is wrong.

Understanding God's Word

Read Luke 18:1-8. Then read Matthew 7:17 together. Many think that Jesus' portrayal of God as an unjust judge is hard to understand. Why do you think Jesus allegorizes God as an unjust judge who neither fears God nor cares for people? What does this parable teach you about (a) persistence in prayer, (2) the character God and (3) the nature of justice from God's perspective?

Applying God's Word

Re-read aloud Luke 18:1-8. Discuss the following questions: (1) Jesus doesn't talk about going out and righting wrongs in this parable. How do you think prayer and action go together (See Matthew 5:23-24)? (2) Why do you think Jesus tells us to not lose heart when we pray? What kinds of things can cause you to give up on prayer?

Witnessing God's Word

How do you think persistent, hopeful prayer in the face of injustice might be a form of witness? What does it say to the world about God? About the nature of God's justice? What can the believer's practice of persistent prayer mean in a discouraged world of cynicism and disillusionment?