

The point I am making is when we pray in Jesus' name, we trust implicitly that He knows what is best for us. Thereby we pray in faith and according to His will [(1 John 5:14-15 NIV). This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. {15} And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.}] and we know He answers that prayer.

The application of the parable can be summed up in this way: If an unjust judge will finally act as a result of persistent prayer, how much more quickly will God bring justice for His chosen ones if they keep praying to Him. Like the disciples we are urged to keep praying in the midst of the sufferings we endure. God will see that justice is done.

For this reason we pray for a strong faith to endure such unfairness. We look at the unfair treatment that Jesus had undergone in the cross. For He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God. This journey to the cross was not easy as we view our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. His sweat was like drops of blood as He pleaded for this cup to be removed from Him, but not His will rather God's will be done. In this faith we are able to answer Jesus' question – when He returns will He find faith on earth?

Admittedly, life is unfair. This is a lesson each of us learn at one point of our lives or another. However when you are feeling overwhelmed by life's torrents and it seems unfair – Pray!

THE LAMPLIGHTER



**THEME: Jesus Spoke to Them in Parables –
“When Life is Not Fair – Pray!”**

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Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. {2} He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. {3} And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ {4} “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don't fear God or care about men, {5} yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!’” {6} And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. {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? {8} I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:1-8 NIV)

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Dear Fellow Prayer Warriors,

In the hospital I sit by the bed of a patient who has been told he has just six months to live. He wonders how he will break the terrible news to his three daughters while his wife sobs in her hands cupping her face and says, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” *Life is not fair!* I visit with a resident who lost her husband and is now “forced” by such circumstances to move into a care facility since she cannot take care of herself. What will she do now without her life’s companion? *Life is not fair!* I encourage a friend who lost his job. He now wonders how he will provide for his family, put food on the table, and give them a roof over their heads with a warm comfortable bed to sleep. He can think of nothing that he had done to be worthy of such an action. *Life is not fair!*

Difficult times are coming, and the followers of Jesus may suppose that God is not being just, because of the persecutions He permits them to endure. Do not permit these times to turn you away from Him who loves and cares for you. Instead...

1. When life is not fair: Pray, Pray, Pray! In the words of our text for today, a woman approached the judge with her demand for justice against her adversary. Now we know that this particular judge had no respect for God or regard for man even though the judge had been placed in office as God’s servant. (2 Chr 19:4-6 NIV) Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the LORD, the God of their fathers. {5} He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. {6} He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the LORD,

who is with you whenever you give a verdict. As such he ignores the expectations of scripture recorded in Exodus 22:22-23 NIV, “Do not take advantage of a widow or an orphan. {23} If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.”

The judge’s problem is not failure to respect someone higher and more prestigious. It is his inability to sense the evil of his actions in the presence of one who should make him feel ashamed. Yet, in spite of the judge’s disregard for her plight, she remained persistent. Persistence was the only weapon this woman possessed. This woman was not going to be deterred from getting her “pound of flesh” - justice toward her adversary. As a matter of fact the judge states: “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don't fear God or care about men, {5} yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!’” Literally he says, “Lest by coming she in the end gives me a black eye.” He was not afraid that she was actually frustrated enough to blacken his eye, but he borrows a boxing term that demonstrates that he can’t take the constant pounding of her petitions any longer. So in the words of the Apostle Paul, (1 Th 5:17 NIV) “pray continually.”

2. When life is not fair: Pray in His Name. (John 14:13-14 NIV) And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. {14} You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. This promise of Jesus is not a formula to get from God whatever we desire in this world. We would, therefore, do well to remember that what we ask for in Jesus’ name must bring glory to the father through Jesus.