

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost
“God speedily answers the cry of His elect” Luke 18:6-8
October 19, 2025
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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 19th Sunday after Pentecost is from
Luke 18:6-8

**“6 Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not
avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with
them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of
Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”**

So far the text:

Jesus loved to tell stories to make His disciples stop and think...to make us stop what
were doing and ponder who we are and what God is doing in our lives. Jesus used these
short stories, called parables, to refocus and recenter a believer on God’s spiritual truths.

Everyone likes a good story, and Jesus is the master storyteller. You hear it once and you
don’t forget it. On recent Sundays, we’ve heard parables about the lost sheep, the lost
coin, the mustard seed, and the unjust steward...you remember him right? ...the shrewd
man who was stealing from his master and made friends using his master’s money so
that when he was out of a job, he’d have a backup plan.

What was the point of that story? There’s always a point that Jesus wants to teach. Be
more shrewd than the sons of this world with the resources that God has given you for
good. This unjust steward only focus was on self...self preservation...me, me, me and it
didn’t matter who he hurt to further his cause.

No, Jesus reminds us that the Christian’s life focuses on just the opposite! Be wise with
the time, talents and treasures that God has given you for God’s purposes...to support
His kingdom building!

And today’s parable is another master story of comparisons. Jesus compares the worst to
the best. On one hand is the another unjust man, an unjust judge...the worst judge you
can think of. Are there bad and corrupt judges in our country these days? Yes, this story

quickly reminds us of the times we live in. There are good judges, god-fearing judges, but also bad ones who unjustly use the law for personal and political gain. Yes, there's even a name that's been coined for it – lawfare. Bad actors find a judge who will help them intimidate, disrupt, or burden an opponent with lawsuits to drain their resources.

Well, in today's story, it was the unjust judge who was being drained. He had a very persistent widow who wouldn't stop bothering him until he heard her case. Her persistence was definitely having an effect on his mental and physical well-being.

So, he gives in...not because he wants to do the right thing, but because he's only thinking about himself. The judge even admits it. **“Though I do not fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.”**

He admits that he doesn't care about anyone but self. He doesn't believe in God. But, he's pressured to do what is just and right.

Now comes the point of the parable. Are you ready for it? Jesus makes sure we are listening...

“Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.

This story is a comparison from the worst to the best. If this self-centered, uncaring, self-serving unjust judge gave justice to a widow who was persistent, what about God?

God is just the opposite. He's selfless. He's caring. He's absolutely just. And He doesn't put off the prayers of His elect, His precious sons and daughter in faith. Jesus says that God will avenge them speedily!

This reminds us of the parable in Luke 11 of a friend who knocks on his neighbor's door in the middle of the night for some bread. Go away. Kids are asleep. But the friend is persistent so the neighbor gets up. What's the comparison?

“11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Why does Jesus keep remind us to pray and be persistent like this neighbor and like the widow? Well, the answer is easy for all of us to see. First, there are innumerable problems and injustices in this world that we face which bring can cause us to lose heart. Our own sinfulness that is ever before us causes us to get discouraged and lose heart.

And second, alone, we are absolutely humbled by our complete inabilities to fix our problems both of the world and of our sinfulness.

But third, Jesus reminds us who has the power to bring justice, who has the power to avenge and help us, and who does so speedily for His elect – Our Triune God.

Jesus told this parable to His disciples and to all believers, you and me to not give up. Don't lose heart! Don't give up when you are saddened by the lawlessness of those who don't fear God in our country. Pray for justice. Pray to God for the conversion of those unbelievers to trust in God.

As we heard in Psalm 111 last Sunday: **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.”**

The good understanding comes from knowing God as a caring, forgiving, selfless God who willingly gave us Jesus to take away all our sins and bring us justice and righteousness by His blood! With this understanding of who we are, redeemed sinners, God's elect, God implores us now to talk to Him as a child talks to one's dear father. For you have a Father in heaven who hears you, knows you, loves you, does what's best for you and does it speedily.

Yes, we live in a world with lawlessness. Paul reminds Timothy in our epistle reading:

“3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

But God's elect stand firm in His truth and know that our God is working all things for the good of those who love Him. Hear Romans 8 once more.

“28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the

firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Don't give up. Remember what God has done for you! God predestined you. God called you and God justified you! He has avenged your sin speedily in your baptism. He avenges your sin in the Lord's supper and strengthens you to face the world without fear, without losing heart! Your God has done all this for you. And He tells you to be persistent in prayer like the widow. Don't give up ever.

Have mercy on me! Cried the lepers last Sunday. Have mercy on me, dear Lord. Come to my rescue speedily!

Will He not? Jesus asks. Of course this is a rhetorical question. For we know the answer is yes. A resounding yes! God is faithful always. As we heard last Sunday in our epistle reading from 2 Timothy 2: **"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."**

Listen to God's Word 2 Corinthians 4 how God gives us the big picture of our Christian pilgrimage in this world.

"16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Our light affliction is but for a moment. Time in this sinful world may seem to drag on but in God's eyes it is momentary. In God's eyes, He is acting speedily to bring us into eternity where time no longer exists...where there is no persistent prayer because the elect are in the very presence of God enjoying His complete justice.

"whom He justified, these He also glorified." This is the Christian's view of life and the reason why we can and should talk to God about everything, everywhere...always Jesus says!

So don't ever give up. Wrestle with God in prayer like Jacob in our Old Testament reading and hold on to hear His blessings... and prevail!

Don't lose heart. Jesus didn't, but went to Calvary for you and me to answer our biggest plea...justice for our souls. As Romans 8 continues:

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)