

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge



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(Luke 18:1-7)

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ 4 For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” 6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?”



Sir John Everett Millais
(British, Southampton 1829–1896 London)

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the normal symbols of justice?
2. What is the difference between justice and vengeance?
 - a. Justice is the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims. The assignment of merited rewards or punishment.
 - b. Vengeance is the infliction of punishment in return for a wrong committed.
 - Retribution. Infliction of injury, harm, or humiliation to another who has harmed a person.

Discussion Questions cont...

3. How do you think God's definition of justice differs from humanity's definition of justice?
4. Do you relate to either character in this parable? Is God represented?

VIDEO

Additional Questions:

1. What is the stereotype of the Biblical pagan judge?
2. Do I want justices today to have a strong religious faith? How about if they are Jewish, Muslim, Hindu?
3. Does Jesus intend to leave us with questions to stimulate discussion about the scripture?
4. Is examining scripture another way of worship?

