

Message Four
A Profound Parable

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:1-8

- I. In Luke 18:1-8 the Lord Jesus told the disciples a parable “to the end that they ought always to pray and not lose heart”—v. 1.**
- II. The significance of this parable is profound, and we need to know God as He is revealed here—vv. 7-8.**
- III. While our opponent is persecuting us, it seems that our God is not righteous, for He allows His children be unrighteously persecuted—1 Pet. 2:20; 3:14, 17; 4:13-16, 19:**
 - A. Throughout the centuries, thousands upon thousands of honest and faithful followers of the Lord Jesus have suffered unrighteous persecution; even today many are undergoing unrighteous treatment—Rev. 2:8-10.
 - B. Our God seems to be unjust, since He does not come in to judge and vindicate; because of this situation, the Lord Jesus used an unjust judge to signify God, who does not seem to do anything on behalf of His persecuted people—Luke 18:2-6:
 1. Our God is a God who hides Himself (Isa. 45:15), as the book of Esther indicates.
 2. We need to realize that the omnipotent and omnipresent God whom we serve hides Himself, especially when He is helping us—John 14:26; Rom. 8:26.
 3. We cannot see Him, and apparently, He is not doing anything; actually, in a hidden way He is doing many things for us—vv. 28, 34; Esth. 4:14.
 - C. The widow in the parable kept coming to the unrighteous judge and asking him to avenge her of her opponent; we ought to pray persistently for this avenging and should not lose heart—Luke 18:1, 3.
 - D. When our Husband is apparently absent and we are left on earth as a widow, temporarily our God seems to be an unrighteous judge—v. 6.
 - E. Although He appears to be unrighteous, we still must appeal to Him, pray persistently, and bother Him again and again, for He will carry out quickly the avenging of His chosen ones, who “cry to Him day and night”—vv. 7-8a.
- IV. “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”—Luke 18:8b:**
 - A. Literally, the Greek words rendered “faith” mean “the faith”; this denotes the persistent faith for our persistent prayer, like that of the widow.
 - B. The faith through which we were saved is the initial stage of faith; the faith that brought us into a life union with Christ is the linking faith—the faith that comes into us through our contacting the Triune God continually so that we may live by the Son of God—Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20; John 14:19.
 - C. The linking faith is the divine requirement for the overcomers to meet Christ in His triumphant return—Luke 18:8b:
 1. Linking faith is the Triune God moving in us to link us to His unsearchable riches—Eph. 3:8.
 2. Linking faith is the faith of the believers who have no trust in themselves; rather, their trust is in God—2 Cor. 1:9.

3. When the Lord Jesus returns, He will find a number of overcomers who are living by the linking faith and will regard them as treasures for His kingdom in the thousand years of His reign—Luke 18:8b; Rev. 20:4, 6.