The Parable of the Persistent Widow
Luke 18:1-8

Main Thought: In light of the Second Coming of Christ, like the persistent widow, we are to pray to our righteous judge for strength to not lose heart.

Introduction (1) – Pray or lose heart.

- In this context of the Second Coming of Christ (8:17; 20:37), Jesus told his disciples to pray in order to not give up (lose heart; faint KJV; become afraid).
- Jesus had already taught much on prayer (11:1-13): “ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.”

The Judge

- The Supreme Court in Israel was the GREAT SANHEDRIN (lit. to sit together) consisting of 71 men. They condemned Jesus to death (Matt. 26:59). In contrast, lower courts traveled from city to city (2 Chron. 19:5-9).
- This judge was no doubt appointed by the Pharisees and reflected them.
- Judges were often BRIBED (Isa. 1:23; Amos 5:12; Mic. 7:3) unlike God who shows no favoritism (Deut. 10:17).
- This judge was UNJUST – neither fearing God nor caring for men. How unlike our Father who is attentive to our prayers (11:11-13; 1 Pet. 3:12; 5:7).
- God’s DELAYS do not always mean DENIALS (Dan. 10:12-13; 2 Pet. 3:9).

“It deserves notice, that the special sin with which the house of Annas is charged is that of ‘WHISPERING’ – or hissing like vipers – which seems to refer to private influence on the judges in their administration of justice, whereby ‘morals were corrupted, judgment perverted, and the Shekhinah withdrawn for Israel.’”

Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah (1896), 1:263.

The Widow

- Widows were to be protected in Israel (Ex. 22:22-24; Deut. 24:17; Isa. 1:17), but this was not always the case. This woman had no husband to represent her in court and was refused access to the judge.
- How unlike Christians who have a HUSBAND (Matt. 25:10) who ADVOCATES for them (Heb. 4:15-16; 1 John 2:1-2).
- This widow was a stranger to the judge adding to her difficulty. But we are God’s own CHILDREN (11:13; John 1:12; Eph. 2:19) who can approach God confidently (Eph. 3:12; Heb. 10:19-20).
- The widow came to a court of law but we come to a throne of GRACE (Heb. 4:14-16). The widow pled out of her poverty while we plea for God’s riches (Eph. 1:3) made available to us (Phil. 2:19).
- As with Noah and Lot (17:26, 28), will he find FAITH in you at the judgment?

The Point

“If a poor widow got what she deserved from a selfish judge, how much more will God’s children receive what is right from a loving Father.”