

We used to call this “the Parable of the Importunate Widow.’ Look it up; it’s a good word. Meanwhile, here is this “Lectionary 29” Sunday’s Gospel, Luke 18:1-8.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’

“For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

### ***Questions for Discussion***

- Jesus' story talks about prayer, and about how people are “vindicated” or “justified” (it’s the same word). It features a judge who violates all the biblical standards for jurisprudence. He does not fear God, promote justice or befriend widows (see Deut. 10: 12-13, 17-18; 16:18-20 and Sirach 35:14-17). In your experience, does this mirror the state of affairs in our own criminal justice system?
- The widow’s incessant appeals force the judge to conclude that she will “give him a black eye” if he doesn’t take up her case. So finally he rules in her favor. What can we do today to ensure our courts render fair verdicts in a timely fashion?
- Luke uses this story to show how Jesus encouraged his disciples to be persistent in prayer. The argument goes from lesser to greater: If a dishonest judge will eventually hear a petition, God will surely grant his people's prayers much more quickly. Does this match your own experience in prayer?