

The Great White Throne
Jim Moore

The Story of a Judge / Luke 18:1-8

*“And He spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city **a judge**, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was **a widow** in that city; and she came unto him, saying, ‘**Avenge me of mine adversary.**’ And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I fear not God, nor regard man; yet because this widow troubles me, I will **avenge her**, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ **And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unjust judge says. And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.** Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?’”*

And the Lord said...

The “Lord” spoken of here is Jesus. He is the Lord of all the people He Created. He has the right to say what is truth about every topic. This topic He is about to address is prayer, which is one of the most important topics for humanity. Since eternity is placed in the heart of all men and women, communication with God (prayer) is as natural to us as breathing. God has much to say about this subject. Every student (disciple) of Jesus should also be a student of prayer. Jesus is so committed to the idea of prayer, that His current ministry is that of Intercession (prayer), and even calls His house a “house of prayer.” We should strive to feel the same way about prayer as Jesus does.

*John 1:1-3, 10, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made**...He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

*Ecclesiastes 3:11 “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also **He has put eternity in their hearts**, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.”*

*Hebrews 7:24-25 “But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**”*

*Isaiah 56:7 “Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in **My house of prayer**. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called **a house of prayer for all nations.**”*

*Mat 21:13 “And He said to them, “It is written, ‘**MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER,**’ but you have made it a ‘**DEN OF THIEVES.**’”*

God The Just Judge

Hear what the unjust judge says...

God is a judge. Judges make decisions. Jesus is not comparing His Father to an unjust judge, but trying to show a contrast between the way men make decisions and the way God makes decisions. God the Father is also a judge, but He is a just a perfect judge who settles all disputes and brings into rightness again all things that are out of balance.

Everything God does is motivated by love. A perfect love that cannot be tainted by the shifting winds of mans opinions or philosophies. God's decisions, or His judgment calls, are so good that He says they are "greatly to be desired." Jesus is using the illustration of a judge and judgment because answering prayer is in effect asking God to make a judgment call by answering one of His kid's prayers. Were asking God to judge and we don't even know it.

Judging is not criticizing or condemning a person or situation. It is setting things right again. We tend to see God's judgment as Him punishing someone for bad things that were done, and that certainly is part of the job description. But it is only a very small part. God is making decisions, or judgment calls, every single day and has been for thousands of years. A judge makes lots of decisions about all kinds of situations. Whatever is out of alignment, or broken, or being abused, or lacking, or being taken advantage of, is in need of a judge. A judge brings justice. A decision has to be made. An act has to follow. The job of a judge is to find out what's wrong and to decide how to make things right again.

Partnering With God For Justice

That's where prayer enters in. An issue or person is brought before the Lord for Him decide what needs to be done and then to ask Him to get things moving in the right direction again. Every time we bring a request to the Lord in prayer, we are asking Him to make a judgment call...or a decision...and then to act. Every time God makes a decision, He is making a righteous judgment and then intends to back up that decision with His power. The earth is really glad for His judgments, even though most of the time they are unaware of them.

1 Peter 4:5 " *They will give an account to Him who is ready to **judge the living and the dead.***"

Revelation 20:11-12 " *Then I saw **a great white throne and Him who sat on it**, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And **the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books***"

Malachi 3:6 " *For I am the **LORD, I do not change**; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.*"

Psalm 19:9-10 *“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.”*

A Multi-Layered Question

And shall not God...

A multi-layer question is not put to the disciples, and to ever hearer of the Words of Jesus down through every generation. When God asks a question, it is not because He is seeking information. He already knows the answer. He is asking the question so that we, who do not yet know the answer, would ask ourselves the same question. The sequence is as follows.

1. The Question: Will not God

1. Avenge (or give Justice to)
2. His Own Elect (or chosen ones)
3. Who Cry Out (pray and intercede)
4. Day and Night (continually or ongoing)
5. Though He Bear Long (takes longer than desired)

2. The Answer: I tell you that He will avenge them speedily

3. The Dilemma: When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?

The question is about whether or not God will do something. *Will God?* Is He to be taken seriously? Can He be relied upon? Will He do what He says He will do if we do what we say we will do? And is there anyone who is willing to trust Him until the very end? He intentionally leaves the question unanswered, because the answer lies in our hands and not His. This is an important detail. What can God do with one man or one woman who will not stop believing Him? God is the one who brings things to pass, but He does it though the partnership of His believing people. Consider statements from some of the gospels most powerful Evangelists:

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” ~ John Wesley

“The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God’s help, I aim to be that man.” ~ Dwight L Moody

“Prayer moves the arm that moves the world.” ~ Charles Spurgeon
We can do nothing without God. And God will do little without us.

A God Who Loves Justice

Avenge...

A better translation for the word “avenge” would be to “give justice.” *Will not God give justice.* All judges are concerned about justice, or at least they ought to be. This story from Jesus is proof that all judges are not motivated by justice. However, God the Father because of His great love for humanity is motivated by a pure desire for righteous justice. He longs to see the world come into voluntary alignment with His ways. As the earth was before sin entered into it, and as heaven is right now, there is no injustice present. Where the perfect will of God is done, human injustice ceases to exist. As it is in heaven, God desires for it to be on earth. And one day it will be:

Acts 3:20-21 *“And that He may send **Jesus Christ**, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”*

All things will be restored to Gods original intent. Until His appearing, we are told to work for justice with Him, but not apart from Him. Alleviating suffering of any kind is a right thing to do, but human justice alone still falls short of the perfect will of God. If every inequity was removed from the earth, no poverty, oppression, or sickness, as great as that would be, heaven on earth without God is not heaven on earth. God is what makes heaven great, not merely a better or perfect human condition.

A Perfect Utopia?

If the world could be made into a Utopia, and when men and women died they still went to hell, it would all be for naught. This is where prayer and partnership with God comes in. His Holy Spirit enables us to transcend the needs of the body alone, and move into the realm of the soul and spirit of man. Let us work for better human conditions while pointing men to the cross, which alone can alleviate all human suffering body, soul, and spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:22-24 *“Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”*

Matthew 10:28 *“And do not fear those who kill **the body** but cannot kill **the soul**. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy **both soul and body** in hell.”*

Mark 8:36-38 *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”*

The God Who Cries Out!

His own elect who cry out...

The term “Cry out” is meant to be more than a whisper or serene soaking in the Presence of the Lord. This is the opposite of silent prayer or contemplation, which are good forms of prayer in their respective places. God responds to both the silent and the sound. It’s not “either-or.” There are times we are to be silent and times we are to practice contending prevailing type of prayer. We are admonished in various places in the scripture to: cry aloud, shout, shed tears, pray with groaning, travail etc. This is at least part of what it means by, “The violent take it by force.” Cry out is more of a voluminous / violent term. It’s fair to say one cannot cry out without making some significant sounds.

Psalm 46:10 “**Be still**, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Isaiah 30:15a “For this says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: **In returning and rest** you shall be saved; **In quietness and confidence** shall be your strength.’

Hebrews 5:7 “[Jesus] who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up **prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears** to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear”

James 5:16-18 “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much**. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he **prayed earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. than he.”

Matthew 11:12 “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven **suffers violence**, and the **violent take it by force**.”

Romans 8:26 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself** makes intercession for us **with groanings** which cannot be uttered.”

Prayer and Justice

God is supremely concerned about justice and justice is connected to prayer. In this passage God promises to send justice to those who cry out day and night to Him. Only God the Just Judge can bring about His level of justice. Therefore He must be sought in order that we may co-operate with the justice He is attempting to bring to pass in the earth. The promise of justice is connected to faithfully crying out to God. If we seek the justice of God and neglect or refuse to cry out to Him, we will fall short at best.

The God Who Never Sleeps

Day and night unto Him...

On the 4th day of creation, God made the greater light to govern the earth by day, and the lesser light to govern the earth by night. God governs through light. Light dispels darkness. Our hearts are the primary seat of His governing, and light fills our heart from His Spirit to lead and guide “or govern” us. To govern means to lead, regulate, or guide. God does not control us, but He does lead us into right paths and helps us course correct when we get off track. He does this not as an outside force, but as someone who walks with us, and lives inside of us. His governance is one of companionship!

*Psalm 121:3-6 “He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall **neither slumber nor sleep**. The LORD is your keeper; The LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.”*

*Isaiah 62:6-7 “I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace **day or night**. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent, **and give Him no rest** till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”*

Pray Without Ceasing?

We have been commanded to pray without ceasing. Which taken literally means to ever be in a state of silent or spoken communion. This may seem like an impossible task, but God never asks us to do anything He is not willing to give us the power to accomplish. Without Him it is of course impossible to maintain constant communion. But with Him all things are possible. And constant communion is a life long journey that is not to be acquired immediately. God is patient in the process and so we should be as well. God is looking for unbroken friendship. That why He decided to move inside of you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *“Pray without ceasing”*

In heaven, worship and intercession goes on around the Throne of God day and night without end. When we pray, we enter into that Throne Room and (temporarily) take part in a prayer/worship meeting that has gone on for time without end. Our prayer room becomes a part of His Throne Room. Some ancients even believed that we actually appear before God in that very room of heaven. Who knows if we are seen by others, but we are definitely placed before His eyes.

2 Chronicles 7:15-16 *“Now **My eyes will be open** and My ears attentive **to prayer made in this place**. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and **My eyes and My heart** will be there perpetually.”*

Heb 4:13-16 *“And there is **no creature hidden from His sight**, but all things are naked and **open to the eyes of Him** to whom we must give account. Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore **come boldly to the Throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

The Throne Room of Heaven

The Throne Room is a place of worship. A place of counsel. A place where decisions are made (judgment calls). A place of adoration. A place of gazing. A place where all eyes are on Jesus. Day and night prayer and worship is not about human convenience or availability, although that is a wonderful side benefit. We do not seek day and night to compete with the local convenience store that's open “24/7 for your convenience.” It is because the King of Glory is worthy of 24/7.

It's because He declared that the incense of prayer and worship would be offered unto Him day and night. As it is in heaven so it should be on earth. He's worthy of it. We need it. It's being done in heaven. Isn't that reason enough?

Rev 4:4, 8-11 *“Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, **a Throne** set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads...The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.*

*And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, **Lord God Almighty**, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: **You are worthy, O Lord**, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”*

Luke 18:7 *“And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him”*

Malachi 1:11 *“For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations,” Says the LORD of hosts.”*

Day and Night Scriptures

Exo_13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Lev_8:35 Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.

Jos_1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

1Ki_8:59 And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:

1Ch_9:33 And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free: for they were employed in that work day and night.

2Ch_6:20 That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place.

Psa_1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psa_22:2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Psa_42:3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

Psa_88:1 "O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee"

Rev_4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

The God Who Takes His Time

Though He bears long with them?

God's timing is definitely not our timing. We want things now...He is willing to wait for the perfect time. We don't even know the perfect time. He is patient, "not willing that any should perish" and is moving in specific seasons to reap a harvest. He has the big picture in front of Him and we can sometimes barely see the picture at all. He is often patient with us as we are sometimes impatient with Him.

2 Peter 3:8-11 *"But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness"***

Psalm 27:13-14 *"**I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!**"*

God is not slack or uncaring or slow about fulfilling His promises as we might sometimes think He is. The sooner we get that way of thinking banished from our thinking processes the better off (peaceful and happy) we will be. He's not mean or mad or unreasonable. He's doing everything out of love.

A Matter of Perception

I tell you that He will avenge them speedily...

The answer is an obvious "Yes." God will do what He said He will do. Prayers for justice will be answered. These last two phrases seem like a contradiction, as they sometimes do in our own lives while we wait on answers to prayer. *"He bears long....He avenges them speedily."* How can it be long and speedy at the same time? Perhaps it is an issue of perception. We see things as taking a long time and God sees it as taking a moment.

Although we may be frustrated with this at times, in the long run we no doubt will be glad He did not give in and move by our time clock, but by His own. If we moved at our speed, divine justice would never be accomplished in a perfect way. Plus we would miss out on the benefit of longingly and lovingly gazing upon Him in the secret place of prayer. Oh the wisdom and kindness of God to think of our hearts first in the process.