

**Autumn Series**

# **“The Widow and the Judge”**

**The Parables of Jesus – About Stewardship**

Windsor 21st May, 2023

*Welcome to Church*

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” **Luke 18:8**



**Autumn Series:** March to May, 2023

## Jesus' Parables – Personal Behaviour

### The Widow and the Judge

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:8

7th May

- The Master and the Servant

14th May

- The Two Debtors

21st May

- The Widow and the Judge

28th May

- Whitsuntide

## **Days Of Elijah**

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the word of the Lord,  
yeah  
And these are the days of Your  
servant, Moses  
Righteousness being restored

These are the days of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and  
sword  
Still we are the voice in the desert  
crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Behold He comes, riding on the  
clouds  
Shining like the sun, at the  
trumpet's call  
Lift your voice, (it's) the year of  
Jubilee  
Out of Zion's hill, salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days of Your  
servant, David  
Rebuilding the temple of praise

And these are the days of the  
harvest  
The fields are all white in the  
world

And we are the laborers that are  
in Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

Behold He comes, riding on the  
clouds  
Shining like the sun at the  
trumpet's call  
Lift your voice, (it's) the year of  
Jubilee  
Out of Zion's hill, salvation comes

There's no God like Jehovah!  
There's no God like Jehovah!  
There's no God like Jehovah!  
There's no God like Jehovah!  
(Repeat)

Behold He comes, riding on the  
clouds  
Shining like the sun at the  
trumpet's call  
Lift your voice, (it's) the year of  
Jubilee  
Out of Zion's hill, salvation comes

## **Live in the Gospel**

Words and Music by Colin Buchanan © 2014  
Universal Music Publishing

The gospel is the garden  
Not the gate  
The gospel is the marriage  
Not the date  
Not the reservation  
It's the flight  
More than just the sunrise  
It's the light

### **CHORUS**

Wake in it  
Walk in it  
Eat, sleep and talk in it  
If you believe in it  
Live in the gospel  
Run in it  
Rest in it  
Take every breath in it

Jesus our righteousness  
Live in the gospel

It's more than just the ticket  
It's the ride  
Not the wrapping  
It's the gift inside  
The gospel is a story and a song  
We were made to sing and dance  
along

### **CHORUS**

The gospel is the lifeblood  
In my veins  
The dead man as he  
Rose to life again  
The best news  
And the treasure and the prize  
Jesus as he  
Drank damnation dry

## CHORUS

Wake in it  
Walk in it  
Eat, sleep and talk in it  
If you believe in it  
Live in the gospel  
Run in it  
Rest in it  
Take every breath in it  
Jesus our righteousness  
Laugh in it  
Weep in it  
Dive way down deep in it  
Fall in a heap in it  
Live in the gospel  
Work in it  
Sweat in it  
Pay every debt in it

Jesus our Champion  
Think in it  
Smile in it  
Walk every mile in it  
Face every trial in it  
Live in the gospel  
Care in it  
Share in it  
Let down your hair in it  
Jesus our sacrifice  
Jesus our Lord and Light  
Live in the gospel  
Live in the gospel

## Oh the mercy of God

Songwriters: Geoff Bullock

Oh the Mercy of God lyrics © Word Music, LLC

Oh the mercy of God, The glory of  
grace

That You choose to redeem us,  
To forgive and restore

And You call us Your children,  
Chosen in Him

To be holy and blameless, To the  
glory of God

To the praise of His Glorious  
Grace

To the praise of His Glory and  
Power

To Him be all Glory Honour and  
Praise

For ever and ever and ever A—  
men

Oh the richness of Grace, The  
depths of His love

In Him is redemption, The  
forgiveness of sin

You called us as righteous,  
Predestined in Him

For the praise of His Glory,  
Included in Christ.

Oh the Glory of God expressed in  
His Son

His image and likeness revealed  
to us all

The plan of the ages completed in  
Christ

That we be presented perfected in  
Him

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Give us day by day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**Luke 11: 2-4**



## The Parable for today

### Luke 18:1-8

<sup>1</sup> And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

<sup>2</sup> Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

<sup>4</sup> And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; <sup>5</sup> Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. <sup>7</sup> And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

<sup>8</sup> I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

## Remember when studying a parable:

### 1. The Physical – (Literal)

- Our story opens with a widow (our hero) who has been wronged.
- Widows and orphans were examples of people in the society that most needed help.
- The judge is a villain who although he holds an important position does not care about anyone else but himself.
- Except for being importuned by the widow, the judge would not have bothered to look into her case. He abused his power.
- The widow persists with her claim, and the judge is forced to act.
- Jesus points out that if the widow's persistence can move even an 'unjust' judge to act, how much more will our constant prayer be heard by our 'just' God.

## 2. The Moral - favourable or unfavourable conduct

- “We need to pursue justice diligently [in the face of opposition] as God’s ambassadors of mercy and peace. This parable is about those characteristics of resilience that develop [see v1] when we decide never to give up, even in face of the insurmountable obstacles before us. Resilience is the strength of character to keep going even when we encounter challenges. It can be grown or developed, like a muscle.
- Resilience manifests itself individually and collectively.... This is why Jesus tells the story “to show them that they should always pray and not [faint] give up.” Prayer cultivates perseverance. And, what is more, within you is the [power of the] Spirit of God, who intercedes on your behalf.

- Resilience can also be experienced in the community. It's the idea that those who are on your side and know your story can come to support you through prayer, words of encouragement, and by physically coming to your aid to help with your needs."

Taken from <https://www.faithward.org/women-of-the-bible-study-series/the-persistent-widow-how-prayer-changes-things/>

### 3.The Intellectual – (Allegorical)

- The widow represents those who are vulnerable and oppressed in our society.
- The judge represents the sinful nature of man which refuses to help those in need, Those corrupted by the earthly powers of privilege.
- The judge in the parable does not represent God. The judge is unjust and doesn't care about what this widow needs.
- “Jesus tells this parable to his disciples to help them understand that if this judge who is unjust finally listens to the woman's request and grants her justice, how much more will a loving and just God answer the petitions of his own children who cry out for help.”

Taken from <https://www.faithward.org/women-of-the-bible-study-series/the-persistent-widow-how-prayer-changes-things/>

#### **4. The Spiritual** – (Anagogical)

What hidden truth was Jesus telling us in this parable. One interpretation could be:

- Let's suppose we see the unjust judge as the evil influence that is ruling this world, corrupting our leaders, and ignoring the ways of God. This includes those religious leaders in Israel that were to put Jesus to death.
- We could also ask what has made the woman a widow, and what is she seeking redress for? See Divine Communications Vol 3 15/11/50
  - Has her husband been killed and she is seeking redress?
  - Are her supplications for God's will to be done?
  - Seeing Israel and the "church" as the woman, is she seeking restitution – guided by Jerusalem Above.

- **Has her husband been killed and she is seeking redress?**

## **Hebrews 9:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world [as our new high priest v 25] hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

<sup>28</sup> **So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;** and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

- **Are her supplications for God's will to be done?**

## **Luke 11:2**

“Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth”

## **Revelation 6:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

<sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, **How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?**

## **Isaiah 65:17**

<sup>17</sup> For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.



- **Seeing Israel and the “church” as the woman, is she seeking restitution – guided by Jerusalem Above.**

## **2 Timothy 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing**.

## **Hebrews 6:1-3**

**6** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

<sup>3</sup> **And this will we do, if God permit.**

## **Revelation 21:1&2**

<sup>1</sup>And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

<sup>2</sup> And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

## **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

<sup>52</sup> In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

<sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

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(Numbers 24/2-5; John 15/1 and 17/23)

1. ISR'EL with the Vine surrounded,  
All that life which is divine ;  
In Thy law, O God, they're grounded,  
While Thy gospel in them shine :  
Thy life in them, and they in Thee,  
All rejoicing, they are Thine. Repeat
2. Isr'el's glory is unbounded,  
Hear the message God hath sent ;  
All this truth in Him is founded,  
And from Him that word it went :  
Thou art the Bride, all glorified,  
And from heav'n this truth is sent. Repeat

*Allegro.* OLIPHANT—6 lines 8s. & 7s.



3. To Zion's mountain, great and high,  
All thine Isr'el will repair;  
For in the Spirit Thou art nigh,  
All their temples to prepare  
Their God to meet, in glory great,  
As the Scripture doth declare. Repeat
4. Lo! that Vine is now descending  
From the great, immortal King,  
And all evil it is rending,  
Isr'el will rejoicing sing:  
Bear the tidings, bear the tidings,  
Of your great Immanuel King. Repeat.

## **Ezekiel 16:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

<sup>4</sup> And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.

<sup>5</sup> None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the lothing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

<sup>6</sup> And when I passed by thee, and saw thee polluted in thine own blood, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live; yea, I said unto thee when thou wast in thy blood, Live.

<sup>7</sup> I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments: thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare.

<sup>8</sup> Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time was the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I sware unto

thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, and thou becamest mine.

<sup>9</sup> Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

<sup>10</sup> I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.

<sup>11</sup> I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.

<sup>12</sup> And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

<sup>13</sup> Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment was of fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.

<sup>14</sup> And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

## 1 Peter 2:11-24

<sup>11</sup> Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; <sup>12</sup> Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; <sup>14</sup> Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

<sup>15</sup> For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the

ignorance of foolish men: <sup>16</sup> As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

<sup>18</sup> Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. <sup>19</sup> For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

<sup>20</sup> For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. <sup>21</sup> For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us

an example, that ye should follow his steps:

- <sup>22</sup> Who did no sin,
- neither was guile found in his mouth:
- <sup>23</sup> Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again;
- when he suffered, he threatened not;

- but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

<sup>24</sup> Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.



## *Message*

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” **Luke 18:8**

*Moderato.*

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(John 1/36, 1/29; Matt. 2/9, 24/30)

THOU the great Redeemer died  
 The curse for to remove,  
 Thou for sin wast crucified,  
 That all may know Thy love;  
 Thou thine Isr'el wilt redeem,  
 And cast the great accuser down;  
 Then will songs of holy theme  
 Make heav'n and earth resound.

Thou the Lamb who once was slain  
 To bring redemption in,  
 On this earth Thou here wilt reign,  
 And make an end of sin:  
 Prove the justice of Thy cause,  
 Thy full dominion to extend;  
 O'er the earth proclaim Thy laws,  
 And make all nations bend.