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The Parables of Jesus Christ: A Widow and a Weary Judge

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE THIRTY-FIVE: A Widow and a Weary Judge (Lk. 18:1-8)

SURVEY

A widow appealed to a callous and godless judge for justice against someone who had harmed her. He ignored her for awhile but eventually the widow's persistence and continuous pleas wore him out, causing him to rule in her favor.

SIGNIFICANCE

This is the final of two parables emphasizing the importance of persistence in prayer. For the first, see parable 24.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- In this parable Jesus both contrasts and compares two judges—an earthly, uncaring, finite judge with the heavenly, all-caring, infinite Judge.
 1. The contrast
 - a. The earthly judge responded to a request that he might rid himself of a bothersome woman.
 - b. The heavenly Judge responds to our requests so that He might receive us and bless us.
 2. The comparison

Both judges respond to persistence.
- Note what this parable does not teach, and what it does teach!
 1. It does not teach we must badger God, as it were, with our prayers until He finally answers them to get rid of us! To the contrary, note the following words:

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:15-16)
 2. It does teach that persistence in prayer pays off!

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him . . . 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." (James 1:5; 5:16)