

2021.05.16 Sunday Sermon < When Things Become Unfair >

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Luke 18:1-8

¹*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

⁴*"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" ⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

In today's scripture, Jesus Christ shares a parable about a judge and a widow. He tells this parable to the disciples who were treated unfairly. As our children are made fun of and told to go back to our country...what must we tell them? What must we do when we are treated unfairly? What does Jesus Christ tell us to do? Let us look into today's scripture in detail and find the answers.

1. Seek God

The first thing we must do when we are treated unfairly is to seek the Lord. In the parable, knowing the judge's character, the widow kept coming to him so that she can plea for justice.

Luke 18:3

*And there was a widow in that town who **kept coming to him** with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

A black man was unfairly accused of sexual abuse and was imprisoned. He started to look back at his life and became a Christian. Near the end of his release date, the actual criminal was caught. He cried and was angry at the cops, prosecutor, and the judge - all of them did not listen to his plea. He wanted to give revenge to all of them, but realized he too was a sinner. Every time he got upset, he started to think about the Lord. He took it day by day thinking of the Lord. One day, he received a letter from the government and within the letter a large sum of compensation. It was an unexpected gift. With the money, he started a currency exchange business and became wealthy. Just as this man reached out to the Lord when he was treated unfairly, let us reach out to the Lord and seek his grace.

Psalms 7:11

God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day.

Amos 5:4

This is what the Lord says to Israel: "Seek me and live;

Hosea 6:1

"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds."

2. Plead to God

In addition to reaching out to the judge, the widow also pleaded with him over and over again.

Luke 18:5

⁵ *yet because this widow **keeps bothering me**, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"*

During this time, being a widow mostly meant she was powerless. However, she didn't give up. And just as she kept pleading, we also need to keep pleading to the Lord.

Psalm 62:8

Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

When you look into the Bible stories, there are many figures who have been treated unfairly. Let's look at the images of three figures - Joseph, Hannah, and Esther.

- Joseph was sold as a slave by his own brothers. Later on, he was imprisoned unfairly due to Potiphar's wife. During this difficult time in prison, he reached out pleaded to the Lord. In the end, he became a prime minister of Egypt and was able to meet his father again.
- When Hannah's womb was closed and couldn't bear any children. What did she do? She gave a prayer to the Lord and became the mother of Samuel.
- Esther was a Jewish queen of a Persian King Ahasuerus. The king's chief adviser, Haman, started to kill all Jews in the kingdom. Esther started to pray to the Lord. She later on foils the plan and wins permission from the king for the Jews to kill their enemies.

On May 9th, 2021, there was a mass shooting in Colorado Springs. Six people were killed during a birthday party. Police believe the suspect drove to the party and opened fire before killing himself. The shooter's reasoning for this mass killing was due to being rejected by his girlfriend. No children were injured in the shooting, but they all became orphans. My brothers and sisters, are you being treated unfairly? Or have we treated others unfairly?

Exodus 22:27

²⁷ *because that cloak is the only covering your neighbor has. What else can they sleep in? When they cry out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.*

Just as the Lord listened to all of their pleas...He will listen to our prayers. He will remember us and will help us.

3. Trust in God

Aside from seeking and pleading to the Lord, we must trust in the Lord.

Luke 18:7

⁷ *And will not God **bring about justice for his chosen ones**, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?*

Remember, God chose us.

- *He is our **savior***
- *He is our **shepherd***
- *He is our **father***

It is most important, Jesus Christ reminding us that we are the Lord's children. This message is mentioned 120 times in Book of John.

Matthew 7:11

¹¹ *If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*

Luke 18:8

⁸ *I tell you, he will see that **they get justice**, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

There was a ship departing from Liverpool to land in New York. While the ship was sailing, a little girl accidentally drops her doll. She runs to the captain and pleads for help. He did not listen to her plea. Later on, an accident occurs and someone fell from the ship. The captain stopped the ship and saved the person. Once the ship arrived to New York, the captain remembered the little girl's plea and bought her a brand new doll.

Isaiah 55:8-9

⁸ *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*

⁹ *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

James 1:6-7

⁶ *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.*

Although our plea may not be heard right away and we may be disappointed...remember that our Lord hears us. God is good and He is our father, who listens to our prayers and provides us something better than what we asked for.

In Summary:

The one who was treated unfairly and died on the cross for us is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ reminds us to do following when we are treated unfairly.

- **Seek God First**
- **Plead to God Diligently**
- **Trust in God Always**

But "I know Whom I have believed, And am persuaded that He is able, To keep that which I've committed, Unto Him against that day."

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*God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me
He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He's so good to me
God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, He's so good to me.*