

=THE PARABLES=

Lesson 12

The Unjust Judge

Objects to have:

Two large circles drawn side by side on a posterboard

A black or a brown marking pen

Another posterboard with a simple drawing of a judge sitting behind his bench

A puppet to represent the widow, or a picture of a lady that is mounted on heavy paper, that can be used like a puppet

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

God knows everything. God sees everything. God is everywhere that all His people go. God hears everything. God is more powerful than anything or anybody; nothing and nobody are as strong as God is. God can do anything, and God loves us!

(Point to the first circle.) Here we are. We cannot see God. So, we will not draw eyes on our face, but God is real. We cannot hear God talk to us, so we will not put ears on our head, but God is real. We cannot smell God, so we will not put a nose on our face, but God is real.

But, God can talk to our minds. Let's pretend that we can see our minds. (Shade in the top part of the head.) When we read the Bible, God is talking to us. With our minds we know what He is saying to us. God the Holy Spirit gives us thoughts even when we are not reading the Bible. So, God is talking to our minds again. God loves us. There are so many things He wants us to know. God loves us. He wants to guide us all through every day so that we can be the best possible persons that we can be.

God loves us, so He wants us to talk to Him. (Draw a mouth on that first head.) He wants us to tell Him that we love Him and that we trust Him. He wants us to ask Him for things, too—things for ourselves and things for others.

God sees us and everything and everybody. (Draw eyes on the second face.) God smells us and everybody and everything. (Draw a nose on that face.) God hears us and everybody and everything. (Draw ears on this head.) God talks. Before all His Word was written down, God talked out loud many times to people. Most of the time now God talks silently to us, but He still talks. (Draw a mouth on this second face.) God is always thinking. (Shade in the upper part of the head.) He thinks loving thoughts toward those who trust Him.

Oh, how much God wants us to talk to Him! (Point to the mouth on the first head.) We “ought always to pray....” We tell God that we love Him, and we praise Him. Then, we are to pray. Praying really is asking for things. God says to us, “Ask Me for what you need, and ask Me for what you want.”

When Jesus, the Son of God was on earth, people could see a Person of God. That Person of God was God the Son—Jesus. How wonderful that must have been to see the Son of God! If we trust Him, we will see Him.

Jesus was a Master Storyteller. Besides the fact that His stories were always good stories, they were stories that helped people to know how to love. His stories always taught a lesson. Do you remember what we call that kind of story? Yes, a story that teaches a lesson is called a parable. Jesus told lots of parables.

One day Jesus told a parable that taught people that they ought to always pray—they ought always to ask God for what they need and for what they want. Jesus told them they were never to stop asking God for what they wanted and what they needed. “And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”

Telling the story:

Jesus was saying, “Be like a lady who lived in a certain city.” (Hold up either your puppet or your mounted picture of a lady.) The lady was a sad lady. For many years she had been a happy lady. She lived in a house with a loving husband. She cleaned his house, she washed his clothes, she got his breakfast and his lunch and his supper ready for him. She loved to be with him whenever he was home from work. She loved to go to church with him. She loved to go shopping with him. She loved to talk with him and liked very much to have him talk with her—telling her what he had been doing for the day, explaining some bit of news to her, reading the Bible with her and praying with her.

But one day the lady became very, very sad. Her husband died. Then she was left alone. Then she was not called a wife any longer—she was called a widow. A widow is a lady whose husband has died.

This widow did not even have any boys to call her Mom and to help her. There were not any boys who called her Aunt who could help her, either. There she was, having to live alone and having to do everything all by herself. When the house needed to be painted, she could not paint the house. When it was time to plant seeds in the ground so that she might be able to raise some food in a garden, she could not dig up all the ground herself. When a window screen needed to be fixed, she could not fix it. The lady needed help. So, with what little bit of money she had, she had to pay somebody to do work for her.

It’s sad to say, but sometimes workmen are not honest. Sometimes they tell people that they owe more money for a job that has been done than what they are supposed to get. Maybe someone was being dishonest with her, and she did not have enough money to pay them. Maybe that dishonest person said, “Good! Now I will take away something that belongs to you because you have not paid me enough.” The poor lady did not know what to do. She needed someone to help her to keep this person from stealing from her. In Bible days she might have owned a cow, or she might have owned some land, and she was about to lose it.

The widow thought, “What can I do? I know! I will go to the judge. I will tell him what has been happening. I will ask him to punish this enemy and keep this enemy from stealing from me.”

(Hold up your picture of the judge behind the bench. Make the lady “walk” in front of the bench.) “Your honor, will you please hear my case?”

The judge looked sternly at the widow. The judge did not trust God. Therefore, he would not obey God. God had commanded in many places in His Word that people ought to help widows, especially widows who have no sons and who have no nephews, but the judge did not care what God said. The judge did not really like other people, either. The only person he cared about was himself. He was a judge because he wanted to make a lot of money.

The judge asked, “What is your case, widow?”

The widow said, “Your honor, I have an enemy. That enemy is stealing from me. He is going to take away my land, saying that I owe him more money than I do. Punish my enemy. Make him give back what is mine.”

“Leave the courtroom, widow.” Upon the command of the judge, the policeman took hold of the widow’s arms and led her from the courtroom. (“Lead” the lady away from the judge’s bench.)

The widow thought, “The judge is the only person who can give an order that would punish my enemy and that would get my land back. I have to go see him again and ask him again to help me.” So the lady went back to the courtroom. (“Walk” her back to in front of the judge’s bench.) “Your honor,” begged the lady, “please make my enemy give back what is mine. Please punish him so he won’t do that again. Please, your honor, I have no one to whom I can turn but you. Nobody else can help me. Please, your honor.”

“Widow, I don’t care about you and your problems. Escort her from the courtroom.” And the policeman took her out again. (“Walk” her out of the courtroom.)

The widow said, “I have to have help. I will lose everything I have. I will have no more home in which to live. I will not be able to raise any food to eat. I want to keep on serving God. I have no son to help me. I have no nephew to help me. I must go back to that judge.” (“Walk” her back in front of the judge’s bench.)

“Not you again, widow! All right, all right! I suppose that you will just keep coming and coming and taking up my time and bothering me and these people who work for me. I don’t care about what God says. I don’t care to obey His rules about how widows are to be cared for. I don’t even care for you—I don’t care that you are sad, and I don’t care whether you have enough to live on, but you have become such a bother that I want to get rid of you.

“Policeman! Go get that man that has been causing this widow so much trouble. Make him sign the paper that would give this lady her land again. Then throw him in jail.” The policeman did what the judge told him to do, and the widow’s problems were over. (Put down the posterboard and the puppet.)

Jesus said to those who were listening to Him, “Did you notice how the widow got what she needed and what she wanted? She got it because she kept on asking. She would not stop asking until she got what she needed.

“Now, our Heavenly Father is not at all like that judge. Our Heavenly Father loves you, and He cares whether you are happy or unhappy. He wants you to be happy. He wants you to be able to help others. But, He also wants you to talk to Him. Tell Him what you want and what you need. If you don’t get right away what you want or what you need, keep on asking Him. If you still don’t get it, ask again. Don’t faint from asking—don’t give up is what that means.”

Maybe somebody you know is not saved. Ask God to get them saved somehow, and don’t quit praying for that person to get saved until he or she does get saved. Maybe somebody you know is sad and needs to be comforted. Ask God to comfort them, and ask Him again and again to comfort that sad person. Maybe somebody you know does not have enough to eat. Ask God how you can help, and keep on asking until you get an idea of what to do. Maybe you need something. Keep on praying about it. That’s what Jesus wants us to do. He said so. He told this parable about the widow’s begging the judge to help her because Jesus wants us to keep asking God for the help we need until we get it.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Luke 18:1, “And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”