

# The parable of the praying widow



Luke 18: 1-8

*By means of a parable the Lord Jesus taught the disciples that they should ask persistently. In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. One day a widow came to him to demand justice against her opponent. When the judge refused to act the widow gave him no peace and persisted with her pleading until he helped her.*

*The Lord Jesus added: "Will God therefore not avenge his own people who cry to him day and night for help? Will he be slow to help them? I tell you, he will judge in their favour and do it quickly."*

*We, too, want to ask our heavenly Father daily to complete his work and fetch us home soon.*

The children learn that they must pray earnestly and persistently especially for the return of the Son of God.

**A**<sup>1</sup> widow is a woman whose husband has died. In Israel, in the olden days, widows were often treated very unjustly. For example, the houses in which they lived were simply taken away from them when their husbands died. Most widows were very poor. It was therefore laid down in the law that widows and orphans should be protected. They were not to be oppressed or treated unjustly. However, this law was often ignored (cf Matthew 23: 14). As they often do, the disciples are sitting around the Lord Jesus listening to him. This time he tells them a parable of a persistent widow:

"In a certain city there lives a judge. He is not a believing man. He neither fears God nor respects man. When the poor come to him pleading for help, he says: Go away, I have no time for you! This judge is unjust.

"In the same city there lives a woman whose husband has died. This widow lives all alone. Nobody helps her or worries about her. This is particularly bad at present as she feels threatened by an evil person. She is very worried and

does not know what to do. Desperately she tries to think of someone she can turn to for help: 'Should I go to the judge? No, I don't think I can do that! – But maybe I should?' After long deliberation she decides to see the judge. She pleads with him: 'Please help me, so that a great injustice will not befall me!' But the unjust judge does not help the poor woman. She returns home in despair. But from now on the widow gives the judge no peace. Time and again she calls on him and pleads with him to help her. Often the judge sees the widow coming from afar and thinks angrily: 'Here she comes again! When will she leave me alone.' But the woman does not leave him alone. Finally, to prevent her wearing him out completely, he helps her."

The disciples have been listening attentively. Then the Lord Jesus gets up, looks at the disciples and says: "Will God not avenge his own people who cry to him day and night for help? I tell you, that he will judge in their favour and do it quickly."

2/3



*A widow was in great need. She went to the judge for help.  
But the judge sent her away.  
The widow did not give up but persisted with her pleading until he finally helped her.  
Jesus Christ teaches us in this parable that God helps his people who cry to him day and night for help.  
"I tell you, that he will judge in their favour and do it quickly."*

- 1** We look at the picture and then discuss with the children the duties of a judge.  
What is a judge, what does he do, who goes to him? Then we relate the parable.
- 2** What does Jesus Christ teach the disciples with this parable?  
He teaches them to pray persistently!  
When an unjust judge can be made to act through persistent pleading,  
how much more will not our heavenly Father help us and answer the persistent pleading of his children. We ask the children to tell of their own experiences where they persistently asked the Lord for something. Many wishes are fulfilled, many are not.  
Why? Often we do not know why.  
We remain persistent in our pleading. God helps us. All God's children around the globe have one plea in common: Lord, shorten the time, complete thy work and take us home in grace!
- 3** We intensify the Our Father with the children in that we recite it and look at the pictures.