

THE JUDGE, THE PHARISEE, AND THE PUBLICAN

August 19, 1906

Luke 18 : 1-14—Memory Verses, 13, 14.

Golden Text—God be merciful to me a sinner.—Luke 18 : 13.

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

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man :

3 And there was a widow in that city ; and she came unto him, saying, *Avenge me of mine adversary.*

4 And he would not for a while : but afterward he said within himself, *Though I fear not God, nor regard man ;*

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will *avenge her*, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, *Hear what the unjust judge saith.*

7 And shall not God *avenge his own elect*, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them ?

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

9 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others :

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray ; the one a Pharisee, and the other a

publican. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, *God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

13 And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his eyes* unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, *God be merciful to me a sinner.*

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other : for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased ; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Jesus spoke another parable, to teach men that they should not grow weary of praying to God for help or blessing, even if they thought that, because the answer was long delayed, God did not hear their prayers.

"Once," said Jesus, "there lived in a certain city a judge, who had no reverence for God, nor had he any regard for the opinion of men. One day a poor widow came to him, complaining that some one had wronged her, and asking the judge to see that justice was done and the man punished. But the judge had other matters to attend to, and would not attend to the woman's request. Still she persisted, until at last, to save himself from being troubled any longer, he did what she asked him to do.

"So," said Jesus, "if this wicked judge did

justice, because of a poor woman's persevering prayer, how much more shall God, who is good, answer His children when they pray to Him for help."

Then Jesus spoke still another parable, or lesson story, to those people who thought that their good works made them righteous, and who despised all who were seemingly not as good as they were.

A Pharisee and a publican went up into the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood apart by himself, being too proud to mix with the common people. He did not ask God's blessing, or forgiveness for his sins, but said, "God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, who are greedy and unjust,—or sinful, like this publican." Then he went on to tell of his good works, of how many times he fasted,