

Lesson VIII. THE JUDGE, THE PHARISEE, AND THE PUBLICAN August 19, 1906

Luke 18 : 1-14. Commit to memory vs. 13, 14. Read Mark 7 : 24-30 ; Luke 11 : 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT—God be merciful to me a sinner.—Luke 18 : 13.

1 And he spake a parable unto them ^{to} ¹ 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, ² neither regarded man :

3 And there was a widow in that city ; and she came ³ 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 ⁴ by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the ⁵ unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his ⁶ own elect, which cry ⁷ day and night ⁸ unto him, though⁹ he bear long with them ?

8 I ⁹ tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

Revised Version—¹ the end that they ought ; ² and regarded not man ; ³ oft ; ⁴ she wear me out by her continual coming ; ⁵ unrighteous ; ⁶ Omit own ; ⁷ to him ; ⁸ and he is long suffering over them ; ⁹ say unto you ; ¹⁰ Howbeit ; ¹¹ also ; ¹² set all others at nought ; ¹³ the rest of men, extortioners ; ¹⁴ get ; ¹⁵ But ; ¹⁶ Omit upon ; ¹⁷ humbled ; but he that.

¹⁰ Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth ?

9 And he spake ¹¹ this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and ¹² 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 ¹³ 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 ¹⁴ possess.

13 ¹⁵ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as ¹⁶ his eyes unto heaven, but smote ¹⁷ upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

14 I ⁹ tell you, this man went down to his house justified ¹⁸ rather than the other : for every one that exalteth himself shall be ¹⁹ abased ; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—March, A.D. 30 ; Perea.

Connection—Soon after the parables of Luke 15 (see Lesson VII.), Jesus, with His disciples, recrossed the Jordan, and went to Bethany, near by Jerusalem, where He raised Lazarus from the dead, John, ch. 11. Returning to Perea, He journeyed slowly again

judge. . . feared not God, neither regarded man. He did not care whether or not his actions were right in God's eyes, nor what others might think of him.

3-5. A widow. Widows in the East were a specially helpless and friendless class. **Avenge me of mine adversary.** She had some powerful enemy, who was injuring her, and from whom she asks to be protected. It is justice she seeks, not revenge. **Would not, etc.** utterly careless about her rights, and perhaps bribed (as judges in the East often were, and are) by her enemy. **Afterward . . . widow troubleth me.** Tristram says there are three ways of treating Eastern officials,—bribe, bully, bother. This widow adopted the last. **I will avenge her ; give her justice. Lest she wear me out (Rev. Ver.) ; weary me to death, as we would say. By her continual coming.** This is the point of the parable : in prayer, we should keep at it.

6-8. **Shall not God (who is just and merciful) avenge ? do justice to, protect, deliver. His own elect ; those whom He has chosen and loves. Though he hear long.** As the farmer, for the harvest time, God waits only for the right time to answer our prayers. **Speedily ; no delay when the right moment arrives. Son of man cometh.** This points to Jesus' second coming from heaven, Acts 1 : 11. **Shall he find faith . . . ? Our great Captain, when He returns, wants to find us full of trust and hope, and therefore persevering in prayer.**

II. **THE PHARISEE.**—10-12. **Two men . . . temple to pray ;** probably at one of the regular hours of prayer, "the sixth hour," or twelve o'clock (Acts 10 : 9), or "the ninth hour," three o'clock, Acts 3 : 1. **The Pharisee ;** a member of the sect which claimed to be specially pious, and which kept the law with great strictness. **Stood ;** a usual attitude in prayer. **God, I thank thee, etc.** It is well to praise God's goodness, but this man praised



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toward Jerusalem. He spoke the two parables of the Lesson on the way.

I. **THE JUDGE.**—1, 2. **Spake a parable ;** to encourage His disciples in prayer. **Ought always to pray ;** that is, keep on praying till the answer comes. **Not to faint ;** not to grow discouraged, though God delays long to give what we ask. A