


Prayer and Faithfulness when Vindication is Delayed


Luke 18:1 - 8

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Overview

- A parable for disciples to help them during the delay of the *parousia*
- A lesser to greater argument: unjust judge (lesser) God (greater)
- God is showing longsuffering toward us
- Are we ready for Christ's return?



Disciples must pray and not be fearful

- **Luke 18:1**
Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,

A judge who is everything he should not be

■ **Luke 18:2**

saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man."

How judges should be

■ **2Chronicles 19:6, 7**

He said to the judges, "Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man but for the Lord who is with you when you render judgment. Now then let the fear of the Lord be upon you; be very careful what you do, for the Lord our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality or the taking of a bribe."

A vulnerable widow pleads for justice

■ **Luke 18:3**

There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, "Give me legal protection from my opponent."

He is motivated by her persistence

■ **Luke 18:4, 5**

For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, "Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out."

A lesser to greater argument

■ **Luke 18:6, 7**

And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?"

We need continued faithfulness in the face of trials and persecution

■ **Luke 18:8**

"I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Implications and Applications

- 1) The solution to fear is prayer
- 2) We should long for and pray for the return of Christ
- 3) The delay of the *parousia* is caused by God's longsuffering nature
- 4) It is our responsibility to examine ourselves to make sure we are in the faith

1) The solution to fear is prayer

■ **Psalm 142:5, 6**

I cried out to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are too strong for me."

1) The solution to fear is prayer

■ **Psalm 142:7**

Bring my soul out of prison, So that I may give thanks to Your name; The righteous will surround me, For You will deal bountifully with me.

1) The solution to fear is prayer

■ **Luke 21:36**

But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

1) The solution to fear is prayer

■ **Philippians 4:6, 7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2) We should long for and pray for the return of Christ

■ **Matthew 6:9, 10**

Pray, then, in this way: "Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

2) We should long for and pray for the return of Christ

■ **Revelation 6:9**

When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;

2) We should long for and pray for the return of Christ

■ **Revelation 6:10**

and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

2) We should long for and pray for the return of Christ

■ **Ezekiel 36:23**

"I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight."

3) The delay of the *parousia* is caused by God's longsuffering nature

■ **2Peter 3:8, 9**

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

3) The delay of the *parousia* is caused by God's longsuffering nature

■ **2Peter 3:14, 15a**

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation;

3) The delay of the *parousia* is caused by God's longsuffering nature

■ **Joel 2:12, 13**

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping and mourning; And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

3) The delay of the *parousia* is caused by God's longsuffering nature

■ **Romans 2:4**

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

4) It is our responsibility to examine ourselves to make sure we are in the faith

■ **2Corinthians 13:5**

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test?

4) It is our responsibility to examine ourselves to make sure we are in the faith

■ **Romans 8:9, 10**

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.
