

The Widow and the Unjust Judge

A RETELLING OF LUKE 18:1-8; A LESSON ON PRAYER.



IN A TOWN IN ISRAEL THERE WAS A JUDGE WHO WAS KNOWN FOR DEALING HARSHLY WITH PEOPLE. HIS JOB AS JUDGE WAS TO HEAR PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND DECIDE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THEM. HOWEVER, HE NEITHER FEARED GOD NOR CARED MUCH ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

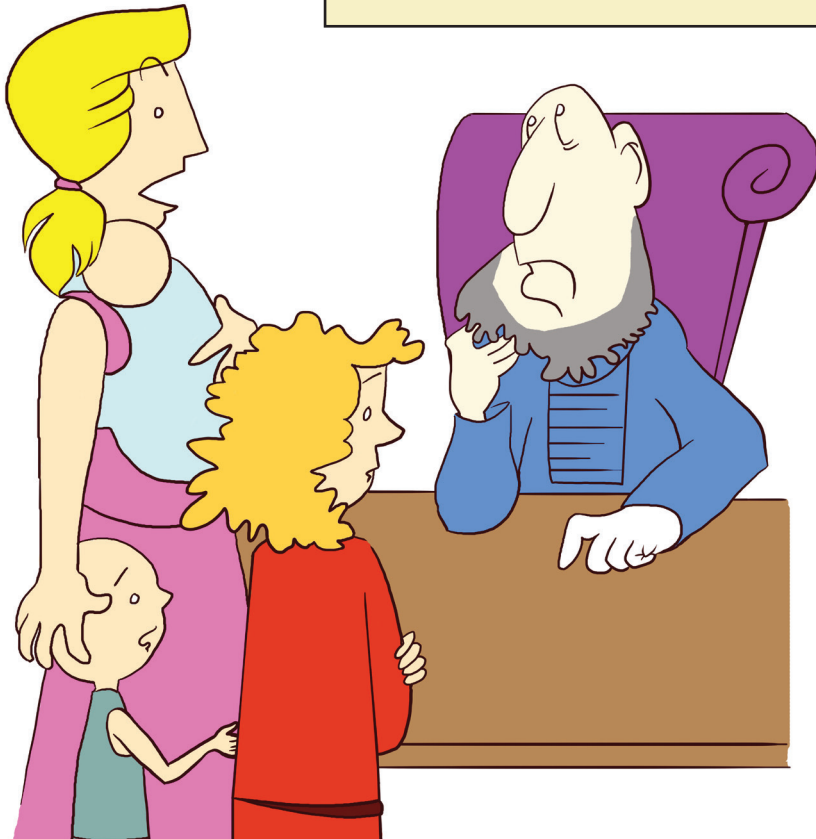
THERE WAS A POOR WIDOW, A WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND HAD DIED, LEAVING HER ALONE TO CARE FOR HERSELF AND HER CHILDREN.

ONE DAY THE WIDOW CAME TO THE JUDGE TO COMPLAIN THAT SHE HAD AN ENEMY, SOMEONE WHO WAS CAUSING HER FAMILY MANY PROBLEMS.

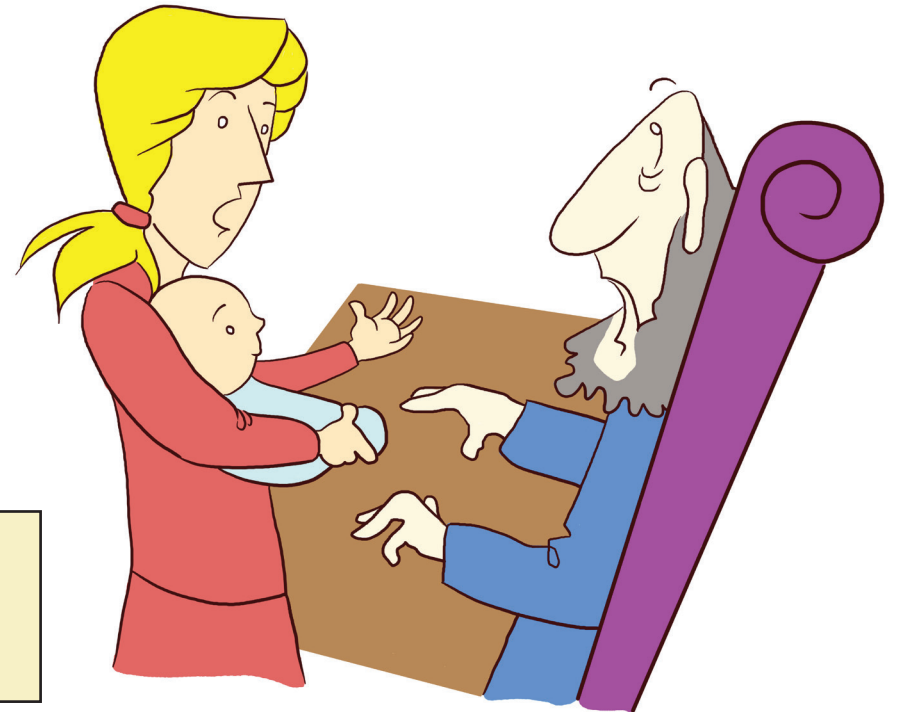
"I AM WORRIED THAT WE WILL LOSE OUR HOME, WHICH IS ALL WE HAVE LEFT!" EXPLAINED THE WOMAN.

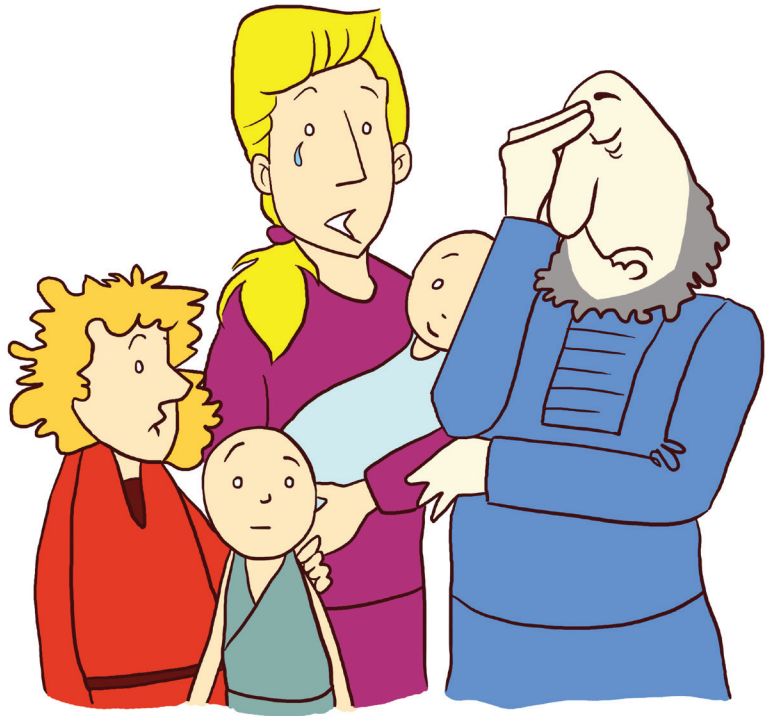
HUH! THE OLD JUDGE THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, A SCOWL ON HIS FACE. NOT ANOTHER WIDOW WITH PROBLEMS. I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO HER STORY.

THE JUDGE GRUMBLED, "LOOK, WOMAN, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M BUSY! I HAVEN'T GOT TIME TO LOOK INTO YOUR LITTLE PROBLEMS. WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO HOME, AND IF YOUR TROUBLES CONTINUE, WELL, MAYBE I'LL FIND A MINUTE IN MY BUSY SCHEDULE TO TALK TO YOU AT A LATER DATE. BUT DON'T COUNT ON IT. NOW, BE OFF!"



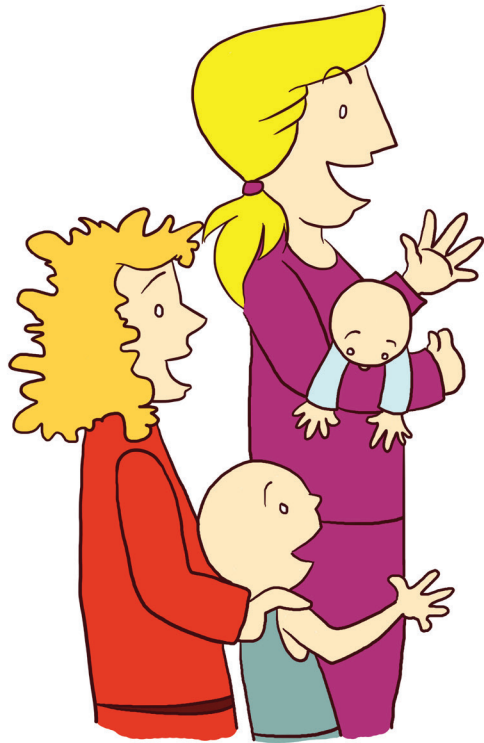
HOWEVER, THE WIDOW DIDN'T GIVE UP.





EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO THIS LADY, THOUGHT THE JUDGE, IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING TO HELP HER, SHE'S GOING TO WEAR ME OUT BY CONTINUING TO COME HERE AND BOTHER ME! SO THE JUDGE ISSUED AN ORDER FROM THE COURT TO SETTLE THE WIDOW'S PROBLEM AND HER ENEMY WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO TROUBLE HER.

THE WIDOW PERSISTENTLY RETURNED OVER AND OVER TO PLEAD WITH THE JUDGE UNTIL HE FINALLY DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING.



AS JESUS FINISHED TELLING THE STORY, HE ASKED HIS DISCIPLES, "DID YOU HEAR WHAT THE UNJUST JUDGE DECIDED? WELL, IF AN UNJUST JUDGE CAN DO THAT, JUST BECAUSE HE IS TIRED OF BEING BOTHERED BY THE WIDOW, DON'T YOU THINK THAT GOD WILL JUSTLY TREAT HIS OWN CHILDREN, WHO CRY OUT TO HIM? I TELL YOU, GOD WILL SEE THAT THEY GET JUSTICE."



GOD IS NOT AT ALL LIKE THAT COLD, HARD-HEARTED JUDGE; HE WANTS TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS AND GIVE US WHAT WE NEED. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE NEED TO PRAY MORE THAN ONCE FOR A REQUEST, AS GOD WORKS TO BRING ABOUT THE ANSWER, AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT HE IS LOVINGLY CARING FOR US WHILE WE WAIT ON HIM FOR THE ANSWER.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT BEING PERSISTENT IN PRAYER WILL NOT ALWAYS RESULT IN GOD ANSWERING THE WAY THAT WE ARE ASKING. BUT WHETHER WE RECEIVE THE ANSWER WE HOPE FOR, OR GOD DOES THINGS ANOTHER WAY, WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD IS A FAIR AND GENEROUS JUDGE, A LOVING FATHER, WHO WILL ANSWER IN HIS TIME, AND ACCORDING TO HIS WILL AND WHAT HE KNOWS IS BEST.

S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Biblical and Christian Foundation: Jesus, God's Son-1e; Christian Life and Faith: A Personal Connection with Jesus: Prayer-1a

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