

Short Stories By Jesus
Session 6: The Widow and the Judge

1. Symbols of Justice

What are familiar symbols or images that come to mind when we think of justice? Which of these symbols most strongly represents justice for you? Why?

How do you define justice? What is the difference between justice and vengeance?

2. This week's parable: Read Luke 18:2-5

Who are the characters in this parable? What does the parable itself tell us directly about the judge and the widow?

Do you respond to one of these characters more favorably than the other? If so, which one and why? If not, why not?

Read Proverbs 1:7 and Leviticus 19:14. What do you think the judge's lack of "the fear of the Lord" reveals about him?

3. Context of the Parable: Read Luke 18:1-8

Why do you think Luke introduces this parable as he does in verse 1?

How does Jesus say God is like or unlike the judge in the parable (verses 6-8)?

How do you relate Jesus's comment about the Son of Man in verse 8 to the parable?

4. Watch the Video

5. Scriptures about Widows

Read Psalm 146:5-9; Deuteronomy 27:19; Isaiah 1:16-17; James 1:27

What do these Scriptures about widows have in common?

How do they differ?

How is the widow in the parable of the Widow and the Judge like and unlike the widows in these Scriptures?

How much or how little should other Scriptures about widows influence the way we understand Jesus's parable? Why?

6. Call to Action:

What does this parable tell us about justice?

What would be a practical application of this parable in our daily life?

Closing Prayer

Ever-living, ever-giving God: may your Spirit move us to act with generosity, being especially generous toward those who have little in a world where others have too much. Make us restless for a world where, as in your kingdom to come, all have what they need to live. Stir us to make changes, beginning in our own lives, for the sake and glory of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.