

Year C - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:1-8

God will see justice done to his chosen who cry to him.



Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up:

"In a town there was once a judge who didn't fear God or care about people. In that same town there was a widow who kept going to the judge and saying,

'Make sure that I get fair treatment in court.'

"For a while the judge refused to do anything.

Finally, he said to himself,

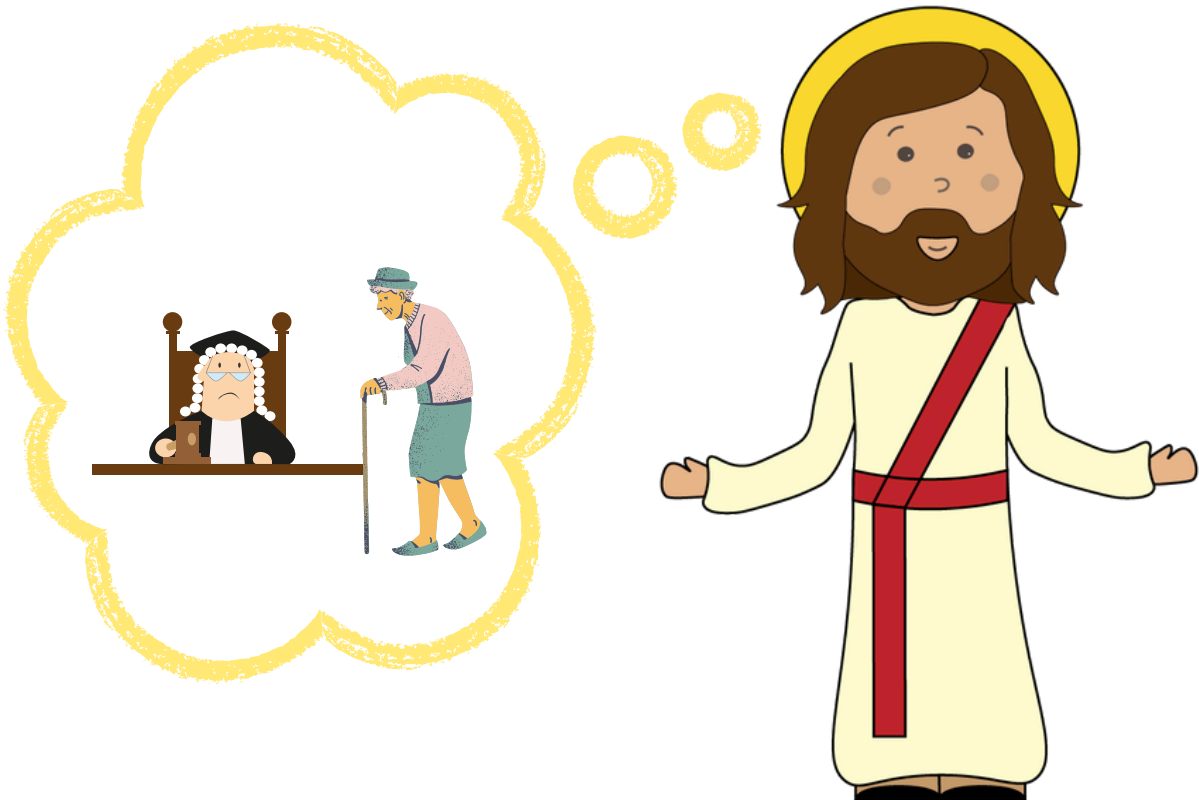
'Even though I don't fear God or care about people, I will help this widow because she keeps on bothering me. If I don't help her, she will wear me out.' "

The Lord said:

"Think about what that crooked judge said. Won't God protect his chosen ones who pray to him day and night? Won't he be concerned for them?

He will surely hurry and help them.

But when the Son of Man comes, will he find on this earth anyone with faith?"



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God hears and answers our prayers



Introduction: In today's gospel, Jesus uses the parable of the widow and the judge to help us understand that God loves us and wants to bless us with wonderful things. We are God's children and should talk to God at all times. God will listen to our prayers, and even if we don't always get what we think we want, God gives us what God knows that we need.

Message:

- While the parable seems to present prayer as nagging God for what we want, God is not like the judge.
- The judge is described as corrupt and unjust, but we know that God cannot be like this.
- Jesus is telling us that if the unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow, how much more will God listen to our prayers.
- God wants to hear our needs and respond generously.
- God wants us to be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers our prayers.
- Children nag because they have found that it works - we are often worn down by the persistence of children. Nagging is certainly not to be encouraged, but the confidence and persistence behind it shows an understanding of the goodness of the giver.
- Patience and persistence in prayer are signs of our commitment to our relationship with God.

Discussion:

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand e.g. judge; fear God (respect God); widow. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- I wonder if you can think of a time when things seemed unfair to you. How do you feel when someone has treated you or someone else unfairly?
- I wonder why the widow didn't give up
- I wonder what we call people who keep asking and asking for things they want
- I wonder what Jesus is trying to teach us in this story
- I wonder what we should do if we don't get what we pray for the first time



PERSISTENCE



GIVE UP