

LUKE 18: 1 - 8

The Bible-Reader



¹Jesus told his disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up:

²In a town there was once a judge who didn't fear God or care about people. ³In that same town there was a widow who kept going to the judge and saying, "Make sure that I get fair treatment in court."

⁴For a while the judge refused to do anything. Finally, he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care about people, ⁵I will help this widow because she keeps on bothering me. If I don't help her, she will wear me out."

⁶The Lord said:

Think about what that crooked judge said.

⁷Won't God protect his chosen ones who pray to him day and night? Won't he be concerned for them? ⁸He will surely hurry and help them. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find on this earth anyone with faith?

The Question-Asker

Who did Jesus tell the story to?
His Disciples

What should the disciples do?
Keep praying, never give up

What's the judge like?
Doesn't care about God or people

Is that what God is like?
No way!

Who went to the judge?
A widow

What did she keep saying?
Be fair!

What did the judge do?
Nothing

Now what did the judge do?
Decided to help

Why did he help?
He didn't like being bothered

Is this like God?
No way!

Does God get bothered by us?
No. God is quite resilient and patient.

Does God ever get worn out?
No, never.

What will God do?
God is concerned and responds quickly and helps those in need.

This is best done with three presenters:

The Bible-Reader
The Question-Asker
The Sorter-Outer

The Sorter-Outer announces that we are going to hear a story Jesus told from the Bible. **The Bible-Reader** begins to read, and immediately **The Question-Asker** knocks on a door (or wall – it's symbolic!) and asks the first question. **The Sorter-Outer** elicits an answer from amongst the congregation or children.

The Bible-Reader backs up just a half a sentence and then keeps reading until the next interruption. They come quick and fast. Allow the frustration and tension to build a little bit, and allow the comedy of this story to become evident. This scenario is a classic in literature of antiquity.

At the end of the Bible reading, **The Sorter-Outer** summarises:

What a Story! Who got the giggles? All those interruptions! Jesus told us this story so we could have a big laugh, and remember that God is absolutely nothing like this. He loves us, he never runs out of patience. He loves getting on the case of the poor and the needy. He never gets tired of our prayers.