

Unit 4: GOD'S LOVE TRANSFORMS US

Lesson 4.5 Sunday of the Judge: The Parable of the Persistent Widow

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scripture References: Luke 18:1-8

*Students can take turns reading this parable.

Class Activity: The activity is indicated in the lesson body on third page

*Can be done as a classroom as a discussion.

Craft Activity: Prayer Jar (follow directions [HERE](#))

Song: [P.R.A.Y.](#) (duration 1:45)

MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Persistence

Words of the week:

ամենազէտ – amenaked – omniscient

դատաւոր – tadavor – judge

այրի – ayree – widow

Memory Verse:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice.

Luke 18:5

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

Twenty-four days after the Great Lent begins, we mark the Median Day of Lent (meecheenk). This means we are halfway in our journey to the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Resurrection. We have another 24 days, and we must stay faithful to our journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Sunday that follows is the fifth Sunday of Great Lent and it is the Sunday of the Judge. On this Sunday the Gospel reading teaches us the importance of the right attitude of prayer. In the Gospel of Luke 18:1-8 Jesus talks about the importance of persistent prayer.

READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 18:1-8

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

¹ And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; ³ and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

The judge in this parable was one of the paid magistrates appointed by either Herod or the Romans. These judges were well known for their dishonorable practice of accepting bribes from plaintiffs to settle their cases. They ignored the poor and the lowly who had no influence. The widow was able to have her case heard because she persisted.

1. In light of this information how do you read and understand verses 6-8? Is Jesus comparing the unjust judge with God, or is he contrasting them? Explain your understanding below.

2. What do Jesus' words in verses 7-8 say to you about prayer? How would you feel if what you've asked for in prayer you do not receive?

Words of the Week:

ամենազէտ – **amenaked** – **omniscient**

դատաւոր – **tadavor** – **judge**

այրի – **ayree** – **widow**

Memory Verse:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice.

Luke 18:5

Song: [P.R.A.Y.](#) (duration 1:45)

There is a word that will help us understand why we don't always receive what we ask in prayer: **omniscient** (*om-nish-uhnt*) - having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things.

We believe that God is omniscient, he is all knowing. Often, we pray and want to receive the answer right away, but sometimes we aren't ready for the answer and have to wait for the right time. Our omniscient God knows what is good for us in the long run and when to give it to us. We need to wait patiently to see what God has planned for us. We must continue to pray and know that God's plans for us are greater than we think. This means we must constantly pray, never giving up, because God will grant it to us when we are ready for it.

Craft Activity: Prayer Jar (follow directions [HERE](#))



Review

Memory Verse Review:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice. (Luke 18:5)

Words of the Week Review:

ամենազէտ – amenaked – omniscient

դատաւոր – tadavor – judge

այրի – ayree – widow

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What kind of judge is the judge? (One who neither feared God nor respected man)
2. Why does the judge finally give justice to the widow? (Because she keeps annoying him)
3. What does this mean for us Christians and God? (God, who loves us more, will answer our prayers even more)
4. What does Jesus mean when He says, “when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth”? (He is referring to whether people will be praying like the widow, constantly and with persistence)

Life Application

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

The parable teaches us the importance of God’s willingness to answer prayer and trust in His timing and power. It also teaches us justice and righteousness. Forming a habit of continuous prayer helps strengthen our relationship with God. By continually engaging in meaningful conversations with Him, we develop strong connections on every level: emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Persistence in prayer is important. It demonstrates our deep trust in God, even during the times full of challenges.

** Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

At Home

Please memorize by next week:

Memory Verse:

Yet because the widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice. (Luke 18:5)

Words of the week:

ամենագէտ – amenaked – omniscient

դատաւոր – tadavor – judge

այրի – ayree – widow

Continue praying in your own words or say the prayers you know. If you are learning new prayers, make a habit of repeating them to help memorize.