

THE UNJUST JUDGE VERSUS THE JUST JUDGE

In Luke, chapter 18, there is the recording of a parable told by Jesus to His disciples. The parable compares an unjust judge to the one true JUST judge, who is God. In understanding this parable, let's go to the last line, first.

Jesus starts His last statement with the word "nevertheless" in verse 8. Jesus has just made some astounding statements, and Jesus is asking "will I find the kind of faith on earth in mankind that will produce what I just told you was available to you?"

He is not talking about the kind of faith it takes to believe there is a God and that He sent His Son to die and live again, so man might go to heaven. That is the way many interpret this scripture. They believe the world will get so bad that few will have the faith to be saved. However, some believe God will grant a brief reprieve and grant a last harvest of a billion souls right before Jesus comes back to earth to fix things for us.

Salvation is important, that is true! But it is only the door that opens so much more to believers. Jesus' death on the cross gave us so much more than what we consider salvation. He gave us an inheritance. The act of salvation, or the act of becoming a believer, introduces us to the land of salvation, called the Kingdom of God.

Jesus is not coming back to fix things. Jesus already came in order to fix things. His death gave us back the authority and power Adam lost in the garden. That authority and power was given to us to fix things in the earth. We are in Go, and He is in us. How much more power and authority than that do we need? We have bought into the lie that we are mere humans and can do nothing to fix our problems. Jesus lives in us, what else could we possibly need? He died to give us that inheritance. He is waiting for us!

In this parable, God is pictured as a judge. What do judges do? They decree justice according to the law. God judges according to His standards. God sets the standard for what is right and what is wrong, what is good and what is evil.

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could vow by no one greater, He vowed by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you, and surely I will multiply you." So after Abraham had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by a greater authority than themselves, and for them an oath of confirmation ends all dispute. So God, wanting to show more abundantly the immutability of His counsel to the heirs of promise, confirmed it by an oath. So that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, which enters the Inner Place behind the veil. This is where Jesus has entered for us as a forerunner, since He has become the everlasting High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 6:13-20 (MEV)

Jesus is referring to that type of faith, the faith of Abraham that sees and understands the inheritance, and believes until they receive it. Jesus became the high priest like unto Melchizedek which made Him both Priest and King. By His

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death and resurrection, He made us kings and priests, also. That is a part of our inheritance.

So many think our inheritance comes after we die, but we are inheriting what Jesus gave us by His death and it is available in this lifetime and that is so much more than just salvation and the hope of going to heaven someday.

So, in this passage from the Bible, Jesus is asking His disciples, "Will I find the depth of faith in the earth when I come, where believers understand the Kingdom of God on earth and they walk in the inheritance that will be theirs after I die?"

The throne of God where He rules sits on a strong foundation of righteousness and justice.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth shall go before Your presence. ***Psalm 89:14 (MEV)***

Righteousness is the standard of what is right in the sight of God according to the heart of God. When we judge according to God's standard of judging, we are recognizing when something is not right. Justice is God's standard for what will make the situation right in His eyes. So, when we coordinate with God to bring the Kingdom of heaven to earth, we are doing our part to bring justice according to God's standard of justice. We are doing what He tells us to do and cooperating with Him to bring it to pass.

In the beginning of the parable, Jesus tells them they should pray and never give up. He is not telling them to beg for something until it happens. He is saying when you see God as righteous and always wants justice, you will not give up until you see what God wants manifested in the earth. Let your Kingdom come to earth, Lord, just like it is in heaven.

In order to know what is right according to God's heart, we have to know God's heart. We have to know Him intimately, not just know about Him. This requires spending time with Him. It requires us to hear His voice and know when it is Him and not another voice. To me, that is the most important thing believers must learn and that is specifically what the gift of the prophet is supposed to be doing. Prophets prepare a prophetic people who hear and know the voice of God and another they will not follow.

This is our life's journey, to go where He says to go, and to do what He says to do. Whether it is in our homes, our jobs, our places of business, in the park, in our schools, in our politics, we must see and understand what is wrong or unrighteous in our society. That is the process of judging what we see righteously. We judge according to what the righteous Judge judges. Then we through the power and authority delegated to us, apply justice to the situation according to what we hear from God.

This is the kind of faith, Jesus was asking if He would see on the earth. Let me give you two very real examples of this from my own life. I could give you many more.

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When I lived in Minnesota years ago, a bar opened up in the county where I lived. The bar opened in the county, instead of the town, because it could have topless waitresses in the county, but not the city. As a group of us were meeting together, we believed God was calling this place out and it was evil. We determined we should declare that place to close down.

I cannot remember how long it took from the time we went and touched the walls of that place and told it to be closed, but it wasn't long before the place caught on fire. We did not tell God how to do it, nor did God tell us how He would do it, we just knew it was His will for it to close.

It was closed for several weeks, as they made repairs. They opened it up again. We did not give up. We went and touched the walls of it again and commanded it to close. Within a short time, it caught on fire again and burnt to the ground. They decided not to reopen it this time.

There was another bar in the downtown area where they had a backroom area with pool tables and games. They did not serve liquor in this back area, so kids could come in and play. The problem was, this was also known as a place to buy drugs. So it was a hanging out place for the wrong type of adults and it was drawing our children into an unsavory place.

We began to pray for that situation to be stopped and that our children would no longer be enticed to this place. We declared it. We did not tell God how to do this. We declared things according to what He told us. Within a few months, this place lost business and closed its doors. A few months later, a Bible book store opened in this location.

We had the faith to see what the righteous Judge wanted done in our community and we had the faith to do what we saw and heard. If each one of us could get a picture of this and walk our streets, asking God where do you want me to go, what do you want me to do to bring solutions to the problems in our communities, we would see a different world. And God would react quickly.

In this parable, Jesus says that the righteous Judge will respond to His chosen ones quickly.

Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"
Luke 18:7,8 (NLT)

There is a lot of theological debate over what the word "chosen" means. Some believe, it only applies to those specifically chosen by God for certain tasks or privileges. I believe it speaks to all believers. All believers have the opportunity to hear and obey God, but few actually walk in what it takes to be able to do this. Those

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who choose to obey God and live in His heart, have been chosen by Him for greatness. He chooses us, because we choose Him above everything else.

In some translations the Greek word is translated as “elect”. It means the cream of the crop, those who are the best of the best. Perhaps, those who have been prepared! All Jesus is saying is those who have followed after God with the desire to hear His voice and to obey Him have been chosen to pray for things, use the keys of the Kingdom to loosen things or to bind things, to release things or to forbid things. These chosen ones will see their faith rewarded by the righteous Judge answering their prayers and bringing justice speedily. This is what the earth groans to see manifested. This is what the nations are waiting for, a people who truly know their God and what is in His heart!

Priests of the Old Testament were responsible for judging (discerning) what was good and what was common or profane, what was clean and what was unclean. Later in Ezekiel the priests were told they were to teach the people to be able to do the same thing.

They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.
Ezekiel 44:23 (NIV)

We are all supposed to be able to judge or discern what is holy or profane, clean or unclean in God’s sight. We can only discern righteously through our spirit in communication with Holy Spirit. We cannot discern accurately using our emotions, intellect or physical senses. We are chosen to go beyond where we are today. The question is, will we choose to go into this unknown territory being led every step of the way, every moment of the day by the God who has given us the ability to hear Him, understand Him and partner with Him to bring heaven’s resources to earth? Let it be so!

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may declare the goodness of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ***1 Peter 2:9 (MEV)***

