

May - 30 - 1913

Luke. Chap. 18. V. 6-8. And if he should hear  
what if unjust Judge saith. ~~There is~~  
There is no duty more strongly enforced in  
Scripture than of Prayer, nor is there any  
it needs be more impressed upon the  
Conscience, as all men by nature have  
a great altar to Prayer, and even  
the best of men are too frequently remiss  
of this important Duty. few like Daniel  
pray to God, three times a day. To all those  
who have never engaged in this Duty at  
real spirituality of man it may appear easy  
to perform, but all those who are most  
concerned in the discharge of it find many  
difficulties to combat with. And particularly  
from their natural aversion to this Duty.  
Good men know well, that Prayer is the



blessed mean to keep up Communion  
between G<sup>d</sup> & their souls; at the same time  
they find various other Hindrances in  
coming to a Throne of Grace. However  
our S<sup>r</sup> in order to encourage us to persevere  
in this duty in spite of all the Difficulties  
we may meet with, shaketh the Parable  
before us. and hath told us th<sup>t</sup> men ought  
always to pray and not to faint. and  
illustrates this Subject by the Conduct of an  
unjust Judge, who attended to a Petition of  
a poor widow, not from any Principle  
of Justice or Humanity, but to save himself  
from being teased by her constant Applications  
tho' I hear not G<sup>d</sup> nor regard man said he  
yet because this widow troubleth me, I  
will hear her Complaint, lest by her continual  
coming she weary me —

And the S<sup>r</sup> said hear what if unjust Judge  
saith. And shall not G<sup>d</sup> avenge his own elect  
in every Day & night unto him, tho' he bear  
long to th<sup>m</sup>? I tell you he will avenge you  
Speedily — In breaking from these words  
we will consider first what if unjust  
Judge said —

2<sup>d</sup>ly The Improvement by our S<sup>r</sup>.

1. Then th<sup>r</sup> There was a widow labouring under  
some very heavy Oppression — th<sup>r</sup> has  
universally armed men against their fellow  
Creatures. The S<sup>r</sup> is full of war robbery &  
Oppression of every kind, as one deserves  
there is no flesh in man's Adverse  
Heart. he does not feel for man. Those  
who are most most Defenceless such as the  
Orphan, and the widow usually suffer of  
Greatest Injuries — Every one is ready to



take advantage of their unprotected State. It is  
their Sin, but however, that if they have Enemies  
on Earth, they have a Friend in Heaven -  
God has promised to be a Father to the  
fatherless, and the widows Husband & Judge.  
his word cannot be broken. he must &  
will fulfil what he hath promised, for G.  
is not a man of he sh<sup>d</sup>. lie. The poor widow  
mentioned in our text went to a magistrate  
to redress her Grievances - he would not  
for a long Season pay her any attention  
but was deaf to all her intreaties - he appears  
to have been a man of a most abandoned  
Character - he had no fear of the holy  
omnipotent, almighty G. and thought nothing  
of that awful Account he was to  
render to the Judge of quick and dead

at the last Day. he did not even regard of  
good Opinion of mankind - they might  
think of him as they pleased - he had no  
just Rule of Conduct, but was governed wholly  
by his own Caprice or Interest - how vile  
and yet how common a Character is this -  
even to the present Day. no wonder if  
such a man should be regardless of the  
Sufferings of the poor widow - he has  
a dreadful tendency to harden mens Hearts  
whatever Rank they fill in Society -  
Dignity of Station will not give a man of  
Principles of benevolence, humanity and  
Justice. Who this Judge was so hardened a  
man, and so unjust in his general  
Conduct, at last he did acknowledge himself  
overcome by her Importunity - she did not



Let him rest - she constantly applied to him  
for Justice. and tho' he gloried in his Exon-  
at of all laws human and divine, he  
co. not bear of constant Intercreases of this  
poor widow - he was convinced by her Conduct  
that she would give him no Rest. and by  
she was determined to weary him into  
a Compliance with her Request. and  
therefore in order to get rid of her, he  
at length resolved to hear her Complaint  
and to do her Justice. He did that for his  
own ease and Comfort, i.e. he ought to  
have done from a better motive. ~~but~~  
it was his Duty to have heard her, at the  
first, and redressed her wrongs. but he  
would not have heard her at all, had  
it not been for her Importunity - and

tho' his Conduct was infamous in the extreme  
and unjust, yet his Confession, <sup>showing</sup> the  
wonderful Efficacy of this widow's Perseverance  
in her Application. she obtained at length  
what she probably had nearly despaired of  
viz. Justice from an unjust Judge.  
But by her continual coming she had wearied  
him. having now considered what of unjust  
Judge said - we come in of 2<sup>d</sup> Place to  
consider the Improvement suggested by our  
Lord. our S. makes a twofold Application of  
the Subject, 1. in a way of Induction, and  
2. in a way of Reproof - Shall not G. avenge  
his own elect who cry day, and night unto  
him, tho' he hear long to G. I tell you he  
will avenge <sup>you</sup> Speedily. we all in a spiritual  
view resemble this helpless widow; we are  
beset to enemies both within, and to our own  
Corruptions to evil Corruptions are great to



the best of men are constrained to confess it  
St. Paul, the good I would I do, not  
but the evil I would not that I do. we  
have not only to contend it and, setting him  
but to all the Powers of Darkness. for  
we wrestle not against flesh and blood  
but against Principalities, against Powers  
against the Rulers of the Dark, of this  
world. against Spiritual wickedness in  
high Places. nor have we in ourselves  
any strength to resist our adversaries  
for it is not that we can do nothing. we are  
so completely without Spiritual strength  
in consequence of sin. our Enemy  
leads us captive at his will. but God is  
Judge of all who knows our frame and  
remembers that we are but dust and

will help us if we call upon him. God hath  
promised to hear the supplications of his People  
Ask and it shall be given you, seek & ye  
shall find for he has declared for our great  
Encouragement, if he will cast out none  
who come unto him. what Comfort does his  
Promises afford to all who are oppressed.  
He may indeed for wise Reasons delay his  
answer to our Prayers for a time, in order  
that our Faith and Patience may be tried.  
The Psalmist tells us he waited patiently  
for the Lord and he heard his Cry. He may  
in like manner hear long to us, as to  
make us think he will not hear, but he  
will not fail to succor us in the fullest  
Season. at the time when we most  
stand in need of his Help. Jes. stretched  
forth his Hand to Peter when he was



sinking in the water. he did not visit Mary  
and Martha till after, their brother was  
dead, yet before his body was turned to  
corruption. and raised him from the dead.  
no doubt the Prophet Jonah prayed to G.  
earnestly before he was cast into the sea  
but it was out of the belly of the whale  
th. God heard his voice, and answered his  
petition. God will most assuredly deliver  
them th. fear him in the end, whatever  
Dangers or Distresses they may be in.

This may be strongly deduced from  
the <sup>preceding</sup> Parable. The widow  
was a stranger, not at all related to th.  
Judge. but all who fear God, are his  
elect, his favored and peculiar People.  
The unjust Judge was not the least  
interested in granting the poor widow

her petition. he had no regard for her, nor  
did he feel for the oppressed under th. she  
was suffering. but God's honor is concerned  
in relieving the wants of his People. Jes.  
told his Disciples, whatsoever ye shall ask  
the Father in my name I will do it,  
that if Father may be glorified in th.  
The widow could have little Hope of prevailing  
th. such a merciless and unjust Judge, as his  
Character was so publicly known. but  
we are not so circumstanced in th. day of  
Tribulation. we have a ~~far~~ loving and compassionate  
Father to come unto. Rend your Heart & not  
your Garments, &c. The widow had none  
to intercede w. th. Judge for her, no advocate  
to plead her Cause. but we have a  
Power, and allprevailing Advocate to G.  
St. John tells us, if any man sin we have  
an



The poor widow was in danger by her continually going to the unjust Judge of imitating him against her; by which her Affections might have been increased, but the more importunate we are at the Throne of Grace, if more God is pleased to us. for while the sacrifices of the wicked are an abomination to God, yet the Prayer of the upright is his Delight, & St. Peter tells us of the Eyes of God are over the righteous. The poor widow notwithstanding all her Difficulties, she at length obtained her Request from the unjust Judge. how much more then shall we, who in lieu of her Difficulties, have such abundant Encouragements - Surely we may come boldly to the Throne of Grace in full assurance of faith. we have no obstacles in our way from God - he is nigh at hand

and not afar off when we call upon him and he knows all our wants, and what will be needful for us before we ask him. Should we not then take Comfort from Gods word? And at all times make our Request known unto him. Our Lord when he introduces the Conduct of the widow, and the unjust Judge he does it to encourage us to pray - and not to faint - he appeals to ourselves - hear says Jes. what if unjust Judge saith, he promises to redress the widows wrongs, tho' he feared not of our regarded man. And shall not God the holy & righteous Judge of all, the Father of mercies, and God of all Comfort - shall not he avenge his own elect who cry day and night unto him - I tell you he will avenge in speedily. his aid and helping will come in the fittest season



when we have most need of it. we have now  
shown the improvement suggested by our Lord in  
a way of instruction. we come now to show it  
in a way of reproof. There is little of this  
importance to be found, which is mentioned in  
Parable before us. nor is this to be wondered  
at since there is so little faith in of God.  
Faith is that Principle from whence earnest  
Prayer proceeds. those of come to God must  
believe he is do. If we believe the Declara-  
tions of God, we must feel ourselves weak  
and helpless - for in this State we are repre-  
ted in Scripture - If we credit the Divine  
Promises we shall acknowledge God's readiness  
to help us. and if we believe the Reality and  
Importance of eternal Things, we shall  
most earnestly seek help from God. nor  
shall we be unwilling to wait till he sees  
fit to answer us -

but how little is there of such faith in of G.  
how few believe that they are so sinful &  
weak and helpless, and ruined as they are by  
Sin. how few believe either the Divine Threats  
enough, or Promises. how few are affected with  
the importance of eternal things. how few  
wait upon G. in Prayer. nay how few are  
faithful even to their Conversions. they know  
from their own Conscience that G. requires them  
to call upon him, but they still refrain Prayer  
before him. How few can be truly called a  
People ~~right~~ who wait upon God, a People <sup>who</sup> to live  
in close Communion to him. W. H. H. come  
to judgment w. he find this faith in us.  
Thousands lie without any acknowledgements  
of God in Prayer. they rise up and lie down  
like the heathen ~~that~~ without calling upon  
God. Such persons have forgotten of there  
will be a day of Judg. -



Others engage stately in their accustomed Round  
of Duties, and satisfy themselves w<sup>th</sup> an unmean-  
ing Recital of certain words, without the  
Spirit of true Devotion - these Persons like  
the Jews of old draw nigh to G. to their  
mouths while their Heart is far from him.  
therefore in vain to they worship him, for  
G. is a Spirit, and they if worship him  
must worship him in Spirit and in truth;  
they must pray w<sup>th</sup> understanding, if  
Heart must be engaged in the duty. The  
affections of the mind must be drawn out  
after God, as the Heart panteth after of  
water by rock, so panteth my soul after  
thee O G. said the Psalmist. all fervent  
Prayer is acceptable to God. and all who  
have called upon him faithfully, he has  
heard and delivered them

There are some who under the Pressure of  
affliction will cry unto God, while his Chasten-  
ing is upon them, but they are soon weary  
of his service, when in which they have  
no pleasure when he removes his judg<sup>ts</sup>  
from them, they soon forget G. their Saviour  
and give no Credit to his word. Few  
very few, resemble the importunate widow  
in their addresses to God. few are in real  
earnest to enter of Kingdom of God. few  
pray, as tho they thoroughly believed the  
Efficacy of Prayer - few say w<sup>th</sup> Judas I  
will not let thee go unless thou bless me  
If it should come, would be find faith in us  
he will surely enquire as well respecting our  
faith, as our works, and if we have not  
of Faith if stimulates us now to pray, he  
will most assuredly appoint us our portion



to unbelievers. where there will be weeping  
and wailing and gnashing of teeth. It is  
of the first importance that we should be  
correct in our faith. if we are wrong in  
this article of the Christian Religion we  
shall be wrong in all others for if our  
faith works are dead - he is believed  
not is condemned already -

we have now considered what is correct judge  
said and the improvement suggested by  
our Lord. and shall now conclude this  
subject in a few words of advice.

1. To those who live without prayer. such  
Prayers are as void of Heaven as they  
are of Pity. What madness is it to  
neglect Heaven when it may be obtained  
by such means. how will such thoughtless  
sinners live long towards their hills

we cannot but address them as the manner  
did the sleeping Prophet, arise and call upon  
thy God, if they perish not. all who are  
living in our Prayer. are in the broad Road  
to Destruction. they are walking down to  
the Dark Chambers of eternal Death.  
hear this and tremble ye careless sinners.  
ye stout hearted and far from righteousness  
ye if will not call upon God. your Day  
of Distress and Anguish is coming - your  
time is flying fast away - Death is hurrying  
Steps is advancing after you. he guards  
upon you every moment, whether you  
sleep or wake - and will shortly very shortly  
arrest you. and then to which of the saints  
will you turn - where will you flee to  
in that Dark and stormy night of Death  
for Shelter - to call upon God will then  
be too late



he then who made you will have re-  
membrance on you, and he who formed you  
will show you no favor. because you will  
not hearken to his voice, when he calls you  
to repentance and reformation. Let all  
in this Assembly who have lived to this day  
without constant Prayer to God. begin this Duty  
just at this no longer. lest the anger of God  
should be kindled against you and ye  
perish for ever of sight way.

2. Let me speak a word to you who only  
pray in a formal manner. without Spirit.  
and fire. without warmth of affection &  
Devotion. Formal Services are far from  
being acceptable to God. he expect if we  
give him our Heart; as when we come  
before him, we do something more than  
repeat a few unmeaning words.

if we offer unto him, if sacrifice is a  
broken and contrite Spirit. to God man will  
I look says God who is poor, and of a  
broken and contrite Spirit and tremble  
at my word. Formal Services for if  
most part tend only to deceive our souls  
and to cause us to cry peace, peace to  
ourselves when God hath not spoken Peace  
to us. This is what of Prophet calls Dumb  
in a counterfeited manner - mere  
formal Services will not bring us to God.  
The Heart must be sincerely engaged in  
the work. and all the affections of the  
Soul called forth into Exercise if we  
hope to derive any saving benefit from  
our Prayers -

3. There are some who pray earnestly  
for a season and afterwards become  
remiss again -



Sometimes this Keriaphs arises from  
too strong an attachment to this present  
men get so eager after it, that they can not  
find time to pray. This is a melancholy state  
to be in. There was a Judas amongst our  
Lords Ap<sup>l</sup>. and there was a Demas an  
acquaintance of St. Pauls - both men have  
in all ages been mixed with the true  
Disciples of X<sup>p</sup>. but their End is generally wrong  
Woe. If there be any here whose Conscience  
accuse them, let them now repent, and do  
themselves good work and turn unto God, &  
he may have mercy upon them -

But perhaps some may be ready to faint  
merely thro the many and great discouragements  
they meet w<sup>th</sup>. Let such remember  
the importunate widow - follow her  
example, and <sup>to</sup> appear for you

tho the promise tarry wait for it. it will  
come. the f<sup>r</sup> will arise and save you  
he has never said to any of the seed of Jacob.  
Let then the Heart of y<sup>e</sup> seek of f<sup>r</sup>. again  
for he will hear their cry and will help  
them.

Lastly, you that have received gracious  
answers to prayer be exceeding thankful.  
Joy this blessing you are taught where to  
 flee to in the Day of Trouble. The name  
of the f<sup>r</sup>. is to you a strong tower - All the  
Saints in every age have made their requests  
to the same God, and have been helped by him.  
The wonderful Effects of faithful Prayer  
are recorded for your example and  
Encouragement - God hath kept the mouth  
of Sins - ~~and~~ the violence of Quere  
shut up the Heavens, that there sh<sup>d</sup>. be  
no ~~more~~ again



in answer to the prayers of his servants.  
Prison doors have been opened. Scurms have  
be ~~also~~ hushed to silence by the same  
almighty means - nothing is impossible  
to prayer. by this duty the Christian  
engages God at all times, in all places  
and under all circumstances to help him.  
The promise, the means and the End  
are all united - Let us then watch  
unto prayer - let us pray without ceasing -  
and let us live near to God in our Closet.  
Let us there commune to our own  
Hearts. If we find ourselves in  
Prayer, whatever we ask & beseech  
we shall receive - at least we shall  
receive Heaven. Let us then  
a final warning - to appear for us