

## The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

**Luke 18:1-8 (NRSV)** <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

## The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

**Luke 18:9-14 (NRSV)** <sup>9</sup> He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' <sup>13</sup> But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' <sup>14</sup> I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

## The Parable of the Ten Pounds

**Luke 19:11-27 (NRSV)** <sup>11</sup> As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. <sup>12</sup> So he said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. <sup>13</sup> He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Do business with these until I come back.' <sup>14</sup> But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to rule over us.' <sup>15</sup> When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. <sup>16</sup> The first came forward and said, 'Lord, your pound has made ten more pounds.' <sup>17</sup> He said to him, 'Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> Then the second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds.' <sup>19</sup> He said to him, 'And you, rule over five cities.' <sup>20</sup> Then the other came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, <sup>21</sup> for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' <sup>22</sup> He said to him, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? <sup>23</sup> Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.' <sup>24</sup> He said to the bystanders, 'Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.' <sup>25</sup> (And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten pounds!') <sup>26</sup> 'I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>27</sup> But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and slaughter them in my presence.'"