

And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' (Luke 18:3)

I. THE WIDOW, THE ADVERSARY, AND THE JUDGE

- A. When we envision a widow, we primarily think of someone who is grieving – who has experienced the loss of someone precious.
 - 1. Many of us have experienced the death of a marriage, a cherished relationship, a lifelong dream, financial independence, a career, or physical well-being.
- B. The adversary was probably willing to use whatever means necessary to exploit her vulnerability, destroy her, and take everything she owned.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

- 1. Our enemy hates God and He tries to assault God by attacking us.

For this is what the LORD Almighty says: "After he has honored me and has sent me against the nations that have plundered you-for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye- (Zechariah 2:8)

- 2. God knows the source of the warfare we face. He sees our enemies and the nature of what is coming against us.

Psalms 69:19

You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed; all my enemies are before you.

- C. The widow had no power over her adversary on her own, so she went to the one who had jurisdiction over him. She went to the judge.
 - 1. By lifting her voice to her judge, the widow was exemplifying spiritual warfare. As the enemy engaged her, she engaged the judge.
 - 2. The purpose of the believer's armor is to protect and empower him or her for prayer.

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:11-18)

II. THE DESIGN TO MOVE US FROM THE PLACE OF PRAYER

- A. Distraction (cares of life, busyness of business, demands of the calendar)
- B. Temptation (compromise of our moral standards)
- C. Discouragement (despair, depression, loneliness and isolation)

EXAMPLE OF BEING UNMOVED: The Life of Joseph (Genesis 37-41)

III. A JUST CLAIM

- A. When the widow presented her case to the judge, she knew she had a valid grievance and that the law was on her side. If only she could get justice, then her adversary would be properly judged.

***Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my just claim is passed over by my God"?** (Isaiah 40:27 KJV)*

1. We also have many “just claims” before God. A just claim is any legal right we have to God’s provision.
2. When God makes a promise to His family, and we’re part of that covenant family, then we have the right to stand and claim that promise for ourselves.

When justice comes to sickness, there is healing.
When justice comes to poverty, there is provision.
When justice comes to infirmity, there is wholeness.
When justice comes to loss, there is restoration.
When justice comes to torn relationships, there is reconciliation.
When justice comes to rejection, there is acceptance.
When justice comes to abuse, there is comfort.
When justice comes to prejudice, there is equity.
When justice comes to oppression, there is liberty.
When justice comes to slavery, there is freedom.
When justice comes to crime, there is punishment.
When justice comes to wrong, there is right.
When justice comes to indebtedness, there is repayment.
When justice comes to death, there is resurrection life.
When justice comes to hunger, there is nourishment.
When justice comes to weariness, there is rest.
When justice comes to fear, there is peace.
When justice comes to violation, there is dignity.
When justice comes to barrenness, there is fruitfulness.
When justice comes to abortion, there is protection for the unborn.
When justice comes to darkness, there is light.
When justice comes to blindness, there is sight.
When justice comes to loneliness, there is companionship.
When justice comes to depression, there is joy.
When justice comes to anxiety, there is confidence.