

# The Parables of Jesus #26

## The Parable of the Unjust Judge - Part 1

### *“The Coming of the King & Martyr Vindication”*

To understand the parable before us, we must hear it within its immediate context. We begin in Luke 17.

Luke 17:20-33

Now having been questioned by the Pharisees *as to when the kingdom of God was coming*, He answered them and said, *“The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is’ or, ‘There it is’. For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.”* And He said to the disciples, *“The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.”* “They will say to you, ‘Look there! Look here!’ Do not go away, and do not run after them. “For just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, *so will the Son of Man be in His day.* “But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. “And just as it happened in the days of Noah, *so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:* they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, *and the flood came and destroyed them all.* “It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom *it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.* *“It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.* “On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back. “Remember Lot’s wife. “Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

In your opinion, what is this passage in Luke 17 about?

Notice the parallels between Luke 17 and Matthew 24.

<b>Luke 17</b>	<b>Matthew 24</b>
<b>The revealing of the Son of Man (17:30)</b>	<b>The coming of the Son of Man (24:30)</b>
They will say to you, “look there, look here”, do not go away and do not run after them (17:23)	If anyone says to you, “behold here is the Christ, or there He is, do not believe him (24:26)
<i>Just like the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day (17:24)</i>	<i>Just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be (24:27)</i>
Just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man (17:26)	For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah (24:37)
The one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back (17:31)	Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things that are in his house, whoever is in the field must not turn back to get this cloak (24:17-18)

In light of these parallels, how should we understand this passage in Luke 17?

It is within this context and understanding that we must hear the parable of *“The Unjust Judge”* which we cite in both the NASB and the RSV. [The italics in red lettering are mine]

Luke 18:1-8

Now he was telling them a parable *to show them that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart*, saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, *‘Give me legal protection [avenge me and bring me vindication] from my opponent.’* “For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, *I will give her legal protection [I will avenge her by bringing*

*judgment upon her adversaries*], otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, *will not God bring about justice [vindication through vengeance] for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?*” “I tell you that *He will bring about justice [vindication through vengeance] for them quickly.* However, *when the Son of Man comes,* will He find faith on the earth?”

Notice how the RSV vindicates my words in the red italics above.

Luke 18:1-8 (RSV)

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

Heard within the context of Luke 17, what is the message of the parable of “*The Unjust Judge*”?

The parable of “*The Unjust Judge*” is the promise of God to vindicate the long history of the persecution of the elect by bringing judgment upon their enemies at the second coming of Christ which was to occur “*quickly*”, that is, *in the last days of Old Covenant Israel.* The parable itself guarantees the first century climax to the “battle of the seeds” which begins in Genesis and culminates in Revelation.

Genesis 4:1-10

Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to *Cain*, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the Lord.” Again, she gave birth to *his brother Abel.* And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the Lord of the fruit of the ground. Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. *And the Lord had regard for Abel and for his offering; but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.* Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? “If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, *that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.* Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” He said, “What have you done? *The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to Me from the ground.*

Revelation 18:20,24, 19:1-2

*Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.... And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth....* After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. *Because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her.*

Continued in part 2....