

**(Food for thought)**

Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8.

**Unjust Judges**



The parable in today's gospel is particularly interesting as it is itself capable of being turned upside-down and inside-out. It seems to be a parable about the need to pray constantly and never lose heart. It gives the picture of two people: an unjust judge who had neither fear of God nor respect for people, and a widow who came to him - time and again - looking for justice. For a long time he ignored her and refused to listen; but at last he tired of her and granted her wish out of sheer expediency. The immediate understanding of the parable would be to say that just as the unjust judge heard the widow because of her persistence, so too God will hear us if we persist in our requests.

Jesus' final question is an interesting one: "And yet, when the Son of Man comes will he find faith?" The Lord longs for our participation in His plan. He doesn't wait for the answer because he knows it already. He encourages us to keep working towards the Kingdom, to keep praying for it, and to never give up. Faith and persistence are the two inseparable elements of discipleship.

It is important for us to remember that Jesus is never one to ask the impossible, only the unlikely and unimagined. He asks if he will find people crying out for justice by living in ways that promote the quality of life on every level - by being willing to listen and to act on behalf of the poor and destitute, the lonely and the outcast - He is asking if we will be "persistent, whether it is convenient or inconvenient."

Discipleship is indeed demanding - and no one of us can do it alone. It requires new kinds of relationships, new kinds of community. It demands imagination, vision and total commitment. *All He asks from us is everything*

*that we are.* And He is telling us that we have something really important to offer one another - something really helpful, something life changing.

