

SERMON LISTENING WORKSHEET

Date: August 3, 2025

Passage: Luke 18:1-8

Title: Don't Ever Stop Longing for Justice

What is this main thing to know?

God has not forgotten His promise. Even when justice is delayed and the brokenness of this world feels unbearable, we can be sure God sees, hears, cares and will bring justice for the elect quickly.

What is the main thing to do?

Keep crying out. Don't settle. Don't give up. In a world full of injustice and discouragement, Jesus calls us to persistent, longing prayer for His return and for His justice to come and that response makes sense because of what we believe about the character and promises of God.

What is the flow of the message?

- We're looking at a story in Luke 18.
- Why does Jesus tell this story?
- He tells it so we'll keep praying and not give up.
- You can understand why they needed that motivation by reading what He just said about the end times in Luke 17.
- Things weren't going to play out the way people expected. That would be confusing.
- One key word shows us what's at stake: "Justice" (repeated in Luke 18:1–8).
- Jesus has made bold claims—but now He's gone, and there's still injustice everywhere.
- This story is an illustration of injustice—and our world is full of it too.
- We need to ask: How are we supposed to respond to all this injustice?
- The Bible is full of people asking that same question.
- In the Old Testament:
 - God's people saw the injustice and longed for the Messiah.
 - The prophets promised He would come and make things right.
 - So when Jesus came, people like Mary rejoiced—God was keeping His promises!
- But then He left.
 - He died, rose again, ascended—and the world is still broken.
 - So what now?
- This story tells us what to do and why.
 - Like the widow, we're supposed to keep coming to God and crying out for justice.
- But that response is unusual. Most people respond differently. Think about these wrong responses:
 - Like the Pharisees: We're tempted to be cynical.
 - Like the disciples: We settle for smaller solutions.
 - Like the world: We just live for now.
- But that's a problem. We're meant to see the injustice, feel the ache, and cry out to God to make it right.

- Why is that so hard? Two major temptations:
 - Temptation 1: Worldliness
The world doesn't believe in judgment.
So it shrinks life down to safety and pleasure.
And we start to think, feel, and live like that too.
 - Temptation 2: Discouragement
The delay feels long.
Justice seems far away.
We start to wonder if God really cares.
We stop crying out with any urgency.
- That's why Jesus tells this story.
The widow kept going to a man who didn't care—and even he gave in.
He didn't help because he was good—but because she wouldn't quit.
God is not like that judge—He's the opposite.
He's good. He's promised justice.
And He's patient with His people as they cry out.
- So what do we do if we believe that?
We keep coming to God.
We keep expressing our longing for Jesus to return.
- This is one reason our response to injustice is so important.
It shows what we really believe.
- Jesus flips the usual question:
The real question isn't "*Will God act?*"
It's "*Will we still be trusting when He does?*"
"When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith?"
- So take a moment and evaluate:
 - Do you still ache for people?
 - Does sin in this world still grieve you?
 - Or have you stopped longing, hurting, and crying out?
- Because your response reveals your faith.
If someone looked at our church, would they see people longing for Jesus to return?
If Jesus came back today—would He find faith at Cornerstone?

What are some things to talk about?

1. What are some of the wrong responses to injustice—and which one do you struggle with most?
 - a. Jesus warns us about responses like cynicism, settling for smaller human solutions, and becoming numb or worldly.
 - b. Which of these do you personally find hardest to resist? Why do you think that response is so tempting in your life?
2. What motivation does Luke 18:1-8 give to keep praying and longing for justice even though it seems like God is not hearing?
3. Are we doing the primary thing Jesus calls us to do?
 - a. The parable teaches that the main response Jesus wants is prayer—especially persistent prayer for justice and for His return.

- b. What could help you develop a more urgent, regular prayer life focused on God's kingdom?
 - c. How can we help each other in this?
- 4. Jesus ends the parable with a question: "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith?" What does that kind of faith look like in everyday life—especially in a broken world?
 - a. Where do you need to grow in showing faith that waits, aches, prays, and hopes?

What is your takeaway?

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION

The pastors have a standing open office hour during lunch-time on Thursdays from 12-1. You can join via the Google Meet code in the bulletin.