

## Reflection for Saturday 14 November

The Gospel reading for this morning is the Parable of the Unjust Judge only to be found in St Luke's Gospel. You will find this parable in chapter 18 vs 1-8.

The parable is about an unjust judge who neither believes in God nor does he take note of whatever other people say or do. A widow kept coming to him and saying, "Vindicate me against my adversary." The judge kept on ignoring her. But in the end he gives in because he was fed up with the widow's persistence. He hears her case and vindicates her. The widow wins the day against what would have been a perversion of justice. In the Old Testament it was the function of the judge to be not only an impartial arbiter but also the champion of the widow, the orphan, the helpless, the poor and the foreigner. The judge had to see that these people received their rights.

This parable is all about prayer and how we should persist in making our requests to God. We notice how Jesus reacted to people who were constantly pleading to God for healing. Jesus listened and then carried out healing whether they were physically and mentally sick, paralytics, deaf and blind people. Jesus taught that we should present our petitions to God persistently. But there was always one proviso, that is, we prayed "in his name." Why do we need to pray persistently? Surely God knows what is in our hearts, come to that why pray at all? For example, when we constantly pray for a loved one or a dear friend who is very ill, are our prayers answered by God? By being persistent in prayer, which Jesus told us that we should pray in that way, God is trying to tell us in our persistence, do we really understand what we are asking. Do we understand and are ready to accept what he is saying and doing through our prayer? God does not answer our prayers in the way we would always want or even believe possible. Do we have faith to accept that? I would like to say more about intercessory prayer when the occasion arises.

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