

# MANCHI MASEMOLA PILGRIMAGE SERMON

Luke 18:1-8.

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THEME: GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE!

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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Life today is full of unjust judges who care less about the oppressed and the exploited. We hear many cases at the magistrate courts being postponed if not the files are lost. The oppressed find no justice. Martin Luther King said "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Did you know that when we abuse women and children we are actually against God's justice?

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Today we are going to hear about Jesus who tells us the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8. My sermon is divided into three sub-themes:

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### FIRSTLY

#### **A. THE PERSISTENT WIDOW FINDS JUSTICE.**

- The widow came to the judge on her own account but God is himself engaged in the cause which we are soliciting.
- She had no friend to speak for her.
- But we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence, his own Son who always lives to intercede for us.
- She had no encouragement but we have a promise that it shall be given to us.
- The widow was a stranger, but God's praying people are his elect, whom he knows and loves. She came to an unjust judge.
- We come to a righteous Father {v5}.

#### **B. THE UNJUST JUDGE BECOMES JUST**

- Judges are people with responsibilities to hear and protect those who are oppressed and exploited. But the judge in this verse was opposite his responsibility.
  - He did not fear God, nor did he respect people. No respect to the environment.
  - Such people see no reason to grant justice to the oppressed, for they do not care that all people are created by God in God's own image.[Genesis 1: 26-27] nor do they know that God is a God of justice who will hasten to serve justice to the oppressed and exploited.
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- He was selfish. Listen to him in verse 4 "Though I do not fear God and not respect man, because this widow troubles me I will grant her justice"

- It is a painful lesson to all liberation activists and justice seekers to note that when the judge finally comes around, he acts not for the sake of justice, but for his own selfish reasons. He does not want to be bothered and to be worn down by this persistent widow. It is only makes sense that such a judge cannot be expected to act differently if another widow came asking justice the very next day. Suppose a widow who is less persistent comes and makes her plea, would he grant her justice? I think he will ignore her too. This judge did not have a change of heart and mind concerning the widow's right to justice. He did not subscribe to justice.

Widows and orphans were among the most vulnerable of all God's people and both Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles insisted that these needy people be properly cared for. The book of Exodus 22:22-24 says "you shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to me I will surely hear their cry and my wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with my sword, your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless". Mother Teresa said "The biggest disease today isn't leprosy or cancer it is the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted of being deserted and alone". We are to embrace rather than to oppress..

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### **C. WHEN THE KINGDOM COMES!**

- What it is that is required of God's people?
- They must cry out to him day and night.
- This has made their duty, and for this he has promised mercy.
- We ought to be particular in praying against our Spiritual enemies like the persistent widow.
- We are to be persistent in praying saying, Lord punish this corruption, Lord Arm me against this temptation, Lord disarm the rebels in Gamas Gaza Israel.
- We must pray untiring.
- God will do us justice, we must cry with earnestness.
- We must cry day and night at all hours.
- We must wrestle with God
- However when the Son of man comes will he find faith on the earth? Now if he comes will he find faith on the earth? No he will not, he himself foresees it.
- It supposes that faith is the great thing that Jesus Christ looks for.
- He does not ask "is there innocence? But is there Faith?"
- It supposes that if there were faith, though ever so little faith like Muster seed. He would find it. In general, he will find but few good people sincere and honest.

#### D. CONCLUSSION

- In my conclusion I have few questions to ask you. Do we stand for our faith like Manchi did? “ I will be baptised by my own blood”
  - Do we persist in prayer for our need like this widow in Luke’s gospel? “she persisted on saying grant me justice” Jesus said to his disciples “you should always pray and not give up”
  - No, we are short tempered, we lose hope, and we become discouraged so quickly. Why are we getting discouragement? We think God take long to deal with our situations.
  - The interpretation of this parable strongly assures us of a God who is unfailingly in solidarity with the oppressed and exploited. Bishop Martin once said “Don’t tell God how big is your problems, but tell your problems how big your God is”. Yes it is true God is greater than our problems. God is a God of justice. Romans 8:26-27 says “and he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. The devil is a liar. It is this strong expression of God’s solidarity with the oppressed and exploited that gives the women and children the courage to say “GRANT ME JUSTICE”. Barack Obama said “CHANGE WILL NOT COME IF WE WAIT FOR SOME OTHER PERSON OR SOME OTHER TIME. WE ARE THE ONES WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR WE ARE THE CHANGE THAT WE SEEK”.
  - MY GOD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE, HOWEVER, WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES, WILL HE FIND FAITH ON THIS EARTH?
  - Through persistent our God came to change the attitude of the unjust judge.
  - The widow’s persistence was provoking to the judge. Our persistent in praying pleases God.
  - We need to be strong and know that God is a God of justice.
  - Manchi’s persistence changed her mother into a Christian. She was baptised and confirmed.
  - The widow’s persistence changed the unjust judge to grant her justice.
  - Then Jesus asks them, “AND WILL NOT GOD GRANT JUSTICE TO HIS CHOSEN ONES THAT CRY TO HIM DAY AND NIGHT?” Jesus continues to ask them, “WILL GOD DELAY LONG IN HELPING THEM?”
  - These are rhetoric questions. Both questions underline a God who responds quickly and positively. Then Jesus presents the answer to them saying, “I tell you, **God will quickly grant justice to them**”. (VS 8)
  - **It was through persistent when Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters defeated the regime government {one man one vote} Freedom now.** Will we persist even if is tough?
  - Will we be able to tell our enemies how great is our God?
  - Will we stand and say Grant us justice?
  - Will the Son of man find Faith on this earth if he may come today or tomorrow?
  - To God be glory
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- AMEN
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