

**UST Lent Retreat in Daily Living:  
Learning from the Parables**

**Week 4: Parables of the Pharisee and the Taxpayer and the Widow and the Judge**

*Parable of the Widow and the Judge*  
Luke 18: 1-8

Then he told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Questions for Reflection

*With whom do I identify in this parable? What lesson does God want me to take from it?*

*What has been my experience of God answering my prayers? How do I understand Jesus' Promise that God responds to my prayers?*

*How firmly do I believe "the Son of Man [will] come?"*

*A Rephrasing of the Parable of the Widow and the Judge*  
(Jeremy Crowfoot)

In a certain town, there was a man who neither feared God nor cared about others. And there was a young girl in that town that kept coming to him with the plea, "Grant me my Girl Scout Cookie selling quota, and buy some macaroons from me."

For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care for children, yet because this girl keeps harassing me, I will see that she meets her quota, so that she will not annoy me any longer with her constant coming."

*Does the rephrasing affect how you think about the parable?*

*Parable of the Pharisee and The Taxpayer*

Luke 18:9-14

Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, ‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income. But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Questions for Reflection

*Do I identify with the Pharisee or the tax collector or both?*

*What do I see of myself in the Pharisee? In the tax collector?*

*Do my good deeds and acts of piety give me a sense of satisfaction?*

*How well do I think I measure up to what God expects of me? How do I look upon those who do not appear to measure up as well as I think I do?*

*What is the chief lesson of Jesus’ parable for me?*