

### Observations on Lk.18:1-8

- The judge is not a “fixer” nor is he compassionate but is only motivated to **get the widow off his back**.
- Widows like orphans were outside the cultural system and very **vulnerable** (like “refugees” today).
- The issue is “**legal protection**” or getting an “**adversary**” off the widow’s back.  
vs.3 “Give me legal protection from my **opponent**.”  
*1 Peter 5:8* “Your **adversary**, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”
- The implication is that persistent prayer to God will bring **hope (freedom from fear) and peace**.  
vs.1 “pray and **not to lose heart**”  
vs.8 “However, when the Son of Man comes, **will He find faith** on the earth?”

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### A window into the soul of man and God.

#### Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.
- 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I fear no evil,**  
**for You are with me;**  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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“4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**”



- ✓ The “rod” was a weapon used to fend off predators from without.
- ✓ The “staff” was used to correct and lead the sheep - protecting them from within.

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### The “fall of Adam” introduces death to the human soul.

#### Genesis 3

“8 They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife **hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God** among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was **afraid** because I was **naked**; so I **hid** myself.””

**Death brings fear, vulnerability, and self-defensive strategies.**

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### Some toxic defensive strategies

- ✓ **Need to control** - minimize the unknowns
- ✓ **Need for closure** - get it settled ASAP
- ✓ **Black and white** - gray areas are unsettled
- ✓ **Resisting change** - low risk tolerance
- ✓ **Worry / whine** - things will or have gone bad
- ✓ **Conspiracies** - organized doom
- ✓ **Low creativity** - avoid risk of failure
- ✓ **Cup is half full** - bad things will happen
- ✓ **Social withdrawal** - depression, illness

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#### 1 John 4:18

“There is no fear in love, but perfect **love casts out fear,**”

**Death is what we fear.**  
**Love is what we seek.**

#### Matthew 1:23

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**,” which translated means, “**God with us.**”

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# Satan

is a  
**Messenger** (not a Master)

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Satan does not want to take away our faith, hope, & love.

He just wants to use fear to displace the **objects** and **subjects** of our faith, hope & love.



Examples - Gen.3 and Matt.4

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**We have both an Accuser and an Advocate.**

*Revelation 12:8*

“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.”

*John 14*

“<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper (Advocate)**, that He may be with you forever; <sup>17</sup> that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

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# The Holy Spirit



is a



**Messenger** (not a “Fixer”)

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## παρακλητος (parakletos)

*“one who comes alongside to help”*

Translated as:


|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| “Helper”   | “Mediator”   |
| “Teacher”  | “Comforter”  |
| “Advocate” | “Encourager” |

Never translated as  
*“circumstance changer”*

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*John 14*

“<sup>25</sup> These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper (**Advocate**), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. **Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.**”



The Holy Spirit’s primary ministry is that of an **advocate, comforter, equipper, teacher, reminder.**

The Holy Spirit’s role is not to alter our environment **but to make us salt and light in it.**

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“In the end, dear friend, it is always between us and God, **not between us and them.**”

Mother Teresa



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## Prayer crib sheet

Three prayers - **Help, Thanks, Wow**

### Help

1. What kind of HELP from God **DO** I expect?

**Change my circumstances** - so they will be more like heaven than hell.

**Change you** - so you won't make your life and my life miserable.

**Change my influence** - so I can change this world.

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“The three things I cannot change are the **past**, the **truth**, and **you.**”

Anne Lamott



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### Help

2. What kind of HELP from God **SHOULD** I expect?

**To respond to my Calling** - to be salt and light in a dying and dark world.

**To respond to Christ's Spirit** - (spiritual life trainer / coach) reminder, encourager, teacher (**study the manual**).

**To respond to life's challenges with** - proper expectations, priorities, perspective, perseverance, patience.

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### Help

3. **Resist the accuser's big weapons**

**Pain** - the spiritual “red light” that drives me to the light or away from it to:

**Anxiety** - the sense of being, uncared for, forgotten, alone, and insignificant.

**Anger** - (guilt toward self, bitterness toward others) that sucks up all the air in our souls and blinds me to truth.

4. **When I can't do anything else** - Just pray “help”, “open my eyes”, show me the way”, “renew my mind”, “replace my fears with hope”.

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### *Ephesians 1*

“<sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be **enlightened**, so that you may know what is

(1) the **hope of His calling**,

(2) what are the **riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**,

(3) <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing **greatness of His power toward us who believe.**”

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