

Luke 18.1-14 Translation Texts

1

Ἔλεγεν δὲ παραβολὴν αὐτοῖς πρὸς τὸ δεῖν πάντοτε προσεύχεσθαι αὐτοὺς καὶ μὴ ἐγκακεῖν,
NASB Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart,
KJV And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
DRA And he spoke also a parable to them, that we ought always to pray, and not to faint,
ESV And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.
NRS Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.
NET Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should always pray and not lose heart.
NIV Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
NJB Then he told them a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart.
CEB Jesus was telling them a parable about their need to pray continuously and not to be discouraged.
NLT One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.
MSG Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit.
MGVH Now *Jesus* used to tell them a parable about how they need to always pray and not get discouraged.

- Ἔλεγεν is imperfect; here customary works well (used to tell...)
- Note how ἐγκακεῖν is translated. The sense is closer to “discourage” than “give up, quit” though it is all in the range.

2

λέγων· κριτὴς τις ἦν ἐν τινὶ πόλει τὸν θεὸν μὴ φοβούμενος καὶ ἄνθρωπον μὴ ἐντρέπόμενος.
NASB saying, "In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man.
KJV Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
DRA Saying: There was a judge in a certain city, who feared not God, nor regarded man.
ESV He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man.
NRS He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people.
NET He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people.
NIV He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.
NJB 'There was a judge in a certain town,' he said, 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for anyone.
CEB He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people.
NLT "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people.
MSG He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people.
MGVH There was this judge in a certain city. As for God,... he had no regard, and as for any human,... he couldn't care less.

- Note how ἄνθρωπον μὴ ἐντρέπόμενος is translated. The sense is about “having respect, regard,” but “caring for / about” are in the range. The objects (God... human) are foregrounded in the Greek which is reflected in my translation.

χήρα δὲ ἦν ἐν τῇ πόλει ἐκείνῃ καὶ ἤρχετο πρὸς αὐτὸν λέγουσα· ἐκδίκησόν με ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀντιδίκου μου.

NASB "There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.'

KJV And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

DRA And there was a certain widow in that city, and she came to him, saying: Avenge me of my adversary.

ESV And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

NRS In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.'

NET There was also a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.'

NIV And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

NJB In the same town there was also a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!"

CEB In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him, asking, 'Give me justice in this case against my adversary.'

NLT A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.'

MSG A widow in that city kept after him: "My rights are being violated. Protect me!"

MGVH Now there was a widow in that city, and she kept on coming to him saying, "Secure justice for me against my unjust adversary!"

- ἐκδίκησόν με ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀντιδίκου μου: Note the use of δικ- root in both highlighted words. It is difficult replicating this in English.
> "Hand out justice for me against the one does injustice against me."
Or perhaps more colloquially: "Do right by me against the one who did me wrong."
- Note that I will be using blue-tinted highlights for these δικ- root words. In particular, forms of ἐκδικ- are used throughout this account. As much as possible, it would be good to translate the word consistently.

καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν ἐπὶ χρόνον. μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα εἶπεν ἐν ἑαυτῷ· εἰ καὶ τὸν θεὸν οὐ φοβοῦμαι οὐδὲ ἄνθρωπον ἐντρέπομαι,

NASB "For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man,

KJV And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;

DRA And he would not for a long time. But afterwards he said within himself: Although I fear not God, nor regard man,

ESV For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man,

NRS For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone,

NET For a while he refused, but later on he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor have regard for people,

NIV "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think,

NJB For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Even though I have neither fear of God nor respect for any human person,

CEB For a while he refused but finally said to himself, I don't fear God or respect people,

NLT The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people,

MSG "He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, "I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think.

MGVH And he ... didn't want to ... for a while. But later, he said to himself, "Even though for God I have no regard, and for any human I couldn't care less,

- In performance, I have tried to indicate pauses in reading that reflect the Greek and heighten the drama in the scene.
- The judge repeats for himself the description made about him in v2.

διά γε τὸ παρέχειν μοι κόπον τὴν χήραν ταύτην ἐκδικήσω αὐτήν, ἵνα μὴ εἰς τέλος ἐρχομένη ὑπωπιάζη με.

NASB yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out."

KJV Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

DRA Yet because this widow is troublesome to me, I will avenge her, lest continually coming she weary me.

ESV yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming."

NRS yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming."

NET yet because this widow keeps on bothering me, I will give her justice, or in the end she will wear me out by her unending pleas."

NIV yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"

NJB I must give this widow her just rights since she keeps pestering me, or she will come and slap me in the face." '

CEB but I will give this widow justice because she keeps bothering me. Otherwise, there will be no end to her coming here and embarrassing me."

NLT but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!"

MSG But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice-- otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black and blue by her pounding."

MGVH still, because this widow is such a pain, I will secure justice for her, so that she doesn't keep on coming and end up beating me into submission."

- παρέχειν μοι κόπον > keeps on causing me trouble
- ἵνα μὴ εἰς τέλος ἐρχομένη ὑπωπιάζη με.> so that not, in the end, by her coming, she keeps on striking me under the eye
 - εἰς τέλος can mean either "finally" or "continually."
 - ὑπωπιάζη does have a root meaning of "striking under the eye; giving a black eye." It can be taken quite literally: "beat, slap, attack" (ESV, NIV, NJB, MSG, MGVH); somewhat less literally: "wear out, weary, beat down, beat into submission" (NASB, KJV, DRA, ESV, NRS, NET, NLT, MGVH); or more metaphorically of giving someone a black eye: "embarrass" (CEB). The verb is a present subjunctive, so an imperfective sense is preferred as in the NLT and MGVH.

6

Εἶπεν δὲ ὁ κύριος· ἀκούσατε τί ὁ κριτὴς τῆς ἀδικίας λέγει·

NASB And the Lord said, "Hear what the **unrighteous** judge said;

KJV And the Lord said, Hear what the **unjust** judge saith.

DRA And the Lord said: Hear what the **unjust** judge saith.

ESV And the Lord said, "Hear what the **unrighteous** judge says.

NRS And the Lord said, "Listen to what the **unjust** judge says.

NET And the Lord said, "Listen to what the **unrighteous** judge says!

NIV And the Lord said, "Listen to what the **unjust** judge says.

NJB And the Lord said, 'You notice what the **unjust** judge has to say?

CEB The Lord said, "Listen to what the **unjust** judge says.

NLT Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this **unjust** judge.

MSG Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, **corrupt** as he is, is saying?

MGVH And the Lord said, "Listen to what this **unjust** judge says!

- Note that Jesus is identified as κύριος = Lord here.
- ἀδικίας is another δικ- root word.

7

ὁ δὲ θεὸς οὐ μὴ ποιήσῃ τὴν ἐκδίκησιν τῶν ἐκλεκτῶν αὐτοῦ τῶν βοῶντων αὐτῷ ἡμέρας καὶ νυκτός, καὶ μακροθυμεῖ ἐπ' αὐτοῖς;

NASB now, will not God **bring about justice** for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?

KJV And shall not God **avenge** his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

DRA And will not God **revenge** his elect who cry to him day and night: and will he have patience in their regard?

ESV And will not God **give justice** to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

NRS And will not God **grant justice** to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

NET Won't God **give justice** to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long to help them?

NIV And will not God **bring about justice** for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

NJB Now, will not God **see justice done** to his elect if they keep calling to him day and night even though he still delays to help them?

CEB Won't God **provide justice** to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he be slow to help them?

NLT Even he **rendered a just decision** in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

MSG So what makes you think God won't step in and **work justice** for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them?

MGVH But God! Will not God surely **secure justice** for God's chosen ones who keep on crying to God day and night? And will God delay long on their behalf?

- "God" is foregrounded and emphasized. Further, the δὲ contrastive particle serves to heighten the contrast. The logic here is from lesser to greater, a typical pattern: If a bad judge can do good, how much more so a good God.

λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ποιήσει τὴν ἐκδίκησιν αὐτῶν ἐν τάχει. πλὴν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐλθὼν ἄρα εὕρησει τὴν πίστιν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς;

^{NASB} "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

^{KJV} I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

^{DRA} I say to you, that he will quickly revenge them. But yet the Son of man, when he cometh, shall he find, think you, faith on earth?

^{ESV} I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

^{NRS} I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

^{NET} I tell you, he will give them justice speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

^{NIV} I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

^{NJB} I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"

^{CEB} I tell you, he will give them justice quickly. But when the Human One comes, will he find faithfulness on earth?"

^{NLT} I tell you, he will grant justice to them quickly! But when the Son of Man returns, how many will he find on the earth who have faith?"

^{MSG} I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

^{MGVH} I'm telling you, God will secure justice for them right away. Nevertheless, as for the Child of Humanity, when he comes, will he then find faith upon earth?

- ἐκδίκησιν again; cf vv. 3, 5, 7
- ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου is foregrounded in an emphatic position.
- ἄρα can either have a temporal sense (X and *then...*) or a consequential sense (X and *consequently...*). It is odd that only my translation tries to express it.

Luke 18.1-8 mgvh

¹ Now *Jesus* used to tell them a parable about how they
need to always pray
and not get discouraged.

² He'd say:

There was this judge in a certain city.

As for God,... he had no regard,
and as for any human,... he couldn't care less.

³ Now there was a widow in that city,
and she kept on coming to him saying,
"Secure justice for me against my unjust adversary!"

⁴ And he ... didn't want to ... for a while.

But later, he said to himself,

"Even though for God I have no regard,
and for any human I couldn't care less,
⁵ still, because this widow is such a pain,
I will secure justice for her,
so that she doesn't keep on coming
and end up beating me into submission."

⁶ And the Lord said,
"Listen to what this unjust judge says!
But God!
Will not God surely secure justice for God's chosen ones
who keep on crying to God day and night?
⁷ And will God delay long on their behalf?
I'm telling you,
God will secure justice for them right away.

⁸ Nevertheless, as for the Child of Humanity,
when he comes,
will he then find faith upon earth?