

Review: By highlighting a widow in one of His parables (Luke 18:1 – 8), Jesus called His disciples to do the hard works of persevering in prayer and fighting against injustice.

Tonight: “These Three Words” from Luke 18:1 – 8. Sometimes, the best way to do Bible study is to study words by finding their definition and the context in which they are being used. As we consider ministering to and on behalf of **margin dwellers**, it would behoove us to have a biblical and theological grasp on these three words Jesus used.

Word # 1: JUSTICE (Luke 18:3)

1) According to Jesus, “unjust judges” exist. If there are unjust judges, there will be unjust

2) Why is this reality hard for some Christians to believe? _____

3) What does the biblical word “justice” mean? _____

4) What do the NT words “just,” “justly,” “justice,” “justification,” “right,” “rightly,” “righteous,” and “righteousness” have in common? _____

In his new book, What Hath Justice To Do With Righteousness? Charlie Dates writes, “Justice has as its focus the most vulnerable in society.”

Word # 2: AVENGE (Luke 18:5, 7, 8)

1) What does it mean to “avenge” someone? _____

2) What will avenging or justice look like for the widow in Luke 18? _____

- How did God avenge the Israelites against the Egyptians? Exodus
- How did God avenge Samson against the Philistines for his eyes? Judges 16:28 – 30
- Why did God want King Saul to take vengeance on the Amalekites? I Samuel 15:1 – 3
- How did Jesus say God would avenge people who harm children? Matthew 18:6

- How did God avenge the murder of James the apostle? Acts 12:1 – 2, 21 – 24

3) What does the word vengeance mean? _____

4) What does it mean to take revenge? _____

5) Yes or No. Should Christians ever take revenge? _____ Explain. _____

- What does Romans 12:19 – 20 say? _____

- What does Galatians 6:7 say? _____

Word # 3: SPEEDILY (Luke 18:8)

Four measurements of time are mentioned in Luke 18: “*a while* (v. 4),” “*continual coming* (v. 5),” “*day and night* (v. 7),” and “*speedily* (v. 8).”

1) Why is God’s timing different from ours? _____

- History teaches us, “The wheels of justice turn slowly, but grind exceedingly fine.”

2) Why does God oftentimes take so long to answer the prayers of the elect? _____

3) Yes, No, or Depends. Should Christians pray for God to avenge them? _____ Explain.

What does Revelation 6:9 – 11 say? _____

4) How can you encourage someone who is waiting on the Lord for justice? _____

5) If you knew her, what would you say to Nolan Wells’ mother? _____

Closing Thoughts: These three words in Luke 18:1 – 8, “justice, avenge, and speedily” are pregnant with meaning and application.