

# Luke 12:58

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.

## Analysis

**When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, as thou art in the way, give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison** (Ὡς γὰρ ὑπάγεις μετὰ τοῦ ἀντιδίκου σου ἐπ' ἄρχοντα, ἐν τῇ ὁδῷ δὸς ἐργασίαν ἀπηλλάχθαι ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, μήποτε κατασύρῃ σε πρὸς τὸν κριτήν, καὶ ὁ κριτής σε παραδώσει τῷ πράκτορι, καὶ ὁ πράκτωρ σε βαλεῖ εἰς φυλακὴν)—Jesus uses legal parable. The antidikos (adversary, opponent in lawsuit) is taking you to the archōn (magistrate, ruler). En tē hodō (in the way, while on the road) represents opportunity for settlement before judgment. Dos ergasian (give diligence, work hard) to be apēllagmenon (delivered, freed, released).

The escalating legal process (magistrate, judge, officer, prison) illustrates increasing severity. Jesus urges urgent settlement while opportunity remains. Spiritually applied: humanity is on the way to judgment; urgent reconciliation with God is required before arriving at the tribunal. Delay risks permanent condemnation.

## Historical Context

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Roman legal procedure involved preliminary hearings before magistrates who could facilitate settlements. Failing to settle led to formal trial before judges, conviction resulting in imprisonment until debts were paid. Jesus's audience would recognize this process. The parable urges settling accounts before reaching point of no return—eternal judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What unresolved 'accounts' with God are you delaying to settle—sins unconfessed, relationships unreconciled, obedience deferred?
2. How does the urgency of 'while on the way' challenge procrastination in spiritual matters?
3. In what ways are you ignoring opportunities for reconciliation that may not remain available indefinitely?

## Interlinear Text

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ὥς	γὰρ	ὑπάγεις	μετὰ	τοῦ	ἀντιδίκου	σου	ἐπ'
<b>When</b> G5613	G1063	<b>thou goest</b> G5217	<b>with</b> G3326	G3588	<b>adversary</b> G476	<b>thine</b> G4675	<b>to</b> G1909
ἄρχοντα	ἐν	τῇ	ὁδῷ	δὸς	ἐργασίαν		
<b>the magistrate</b> G758	<b>as thou art in</b> G1722	G3588	<b>the way</b> G3598	<b>give</b> G1325	<b>diligence</b> G2039		
ἀπηλλάχθαι	ἀπ'	αὐτοῦ	μήποτε	κατασύρη	σε		
<b>that thou mayest be delivered</b> G525	<b>from</b> G575	<b>him</b> G846	<b>lest</b> G3379	<b>he hale</b> G2694	<b>thee</b> G4571		
πρὸς	τὸν	κριτῆς	καὶ	ὁ	κριτῆς	σε	παραδῶ
<b>to</b> G4314	G3588	<b>the judge</b> G2923	<b>and</b> G2532	G3588	<b>the judge</b> G2923	<b>thee</b> G4571	<b>deliver</b> G3860
πράκτωρ	καὶ	ὁ	πράκτωρ	σε	βάλλη	εἰς	φυλακὴν
<b>the officer</b> G4233	<b>and</b> G2532	G3588	<b>the officer</b> G4233	<b>thee</b> G4571	<b>cast</b> G906	<b>into</b> G1519	<b>prison</b> G5438

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 18:30** (Parallel theme): And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

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