

Luke 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man—the unjust judge's internal monologue reveals his godless character. The Greek phrase οὐκ εφοβούμεν τὸν θεόν means 'I do not fear God,' showing complete lack of divine accountability. Similarly, ἀνθρώπον οὐ εντρέπομαι means 'I have no regard for man'—no human opinion matters to him.

This judge represents the opposite of God's character. Jesus argues a minore ad majus (from lesser to greater): if even this corrupt magistrate eventually yields to persistence, how much more will a loving Father respond to His children's prayers? The parable teaches that persistent prayer overcomes even the worst obstacles.

Historical Context

Roman-occupied Judea had both Jewish courts (religious matters) and Roman courts (civil/criminal cases). Local magistrates often operated with little oversight, creating opportunities for corruption. Widows had no legal advocates and were frequently exploited (Isaiah 1:23). Jesus's audience would immediately recognize this judge as representing the worst kind of judicial corruption—someone with absolute power and zero accountability to either divine or human authority.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does this unjust judge's character reveal about the obstacles believers may face in prayer?
2. How does Jesus's 'lesser to greater' argument strengthen confidence in God's responsiveness to prayer?
3. What role does persistence play in developing faith that trusts God's character despite delayed answers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐκ ἥθελησεν ἐπὶ χρόνον μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα εἶπεν
And not he would for a while G3326 but afterward he said
G2532 G3756 G2309 G1909 G5550 G1161 G5023 G2036

ἐν ἐαυτῷ Εἰ καὶ τὸν θεὸν οὐκ φοβοῦμαι καὶ
within himself G1487 And G3588 God not I fear And
G1722 G1438 G2532 G2316 G3756 G5399 G2532

ἄνθρωπον οὐκ ἐντρέπομαι
man not regard
G444 G3756 G1788

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:17 (Parallel theme): And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

Luke 16:3 (Parallel theme): Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

