

Luke 18:1-8

(Lectionary Year C, Pentecost 22)

By Beth Barnett

Engagement using music, that aims to help the gathering be encouraged that God is nothing like the judge in Luke 18:1-8	
You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music: Let Justice Roll (Beth Barnett, Welcoming Voices, 2011).• Copies of text (either on screen or printed) with the phrases 'justice' phrases in bold (see below)• Prepare either your musicians or audio person with outline of how music will be used
Time required:	5-10 minutes

Connect

Sometimes when Jesus tells a parable or a story he begins with 'The Kingdom of Heaven is like...' or 'To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God', and sometimes he just launches into a story 'There was a rich man....' Or 'The Land of a Rich man...'

The Bible reading today from the Gospel of Luke is one of these kinds of stories. It doesn't begin with 'The Kingdom of God is like...' so straight away we know that it's not giving us a picture of God, or God's ways. It's helping us to see how different God's ways are to the way we are used to things being.

In this story there is a Judge. In the time of Jesus Judges didn't have to go to university and pass exams and qualify to be a judge. They didn't have to make promises like Australian Judges in the 21st Century do, who promise to be accountable to the law

"without fear or favour, affection or ill-will". That means no favourites. Always fair.

In Jesus' time Judges were appointed by their powerful friends and they were almost always corrupt and unfair.

Jesus tells this story about a terrible corrupt judge to make sure we know that God ISN'T like this.

God's ways are the ways of Justice. Always.

Context

So before we read the bible we are going to learn a little bit of a song that belongs in the story.

Teach the sound byte of "Let Justice Roll" repeating it a few times



Listen to the entire song – inviting everyone to join in on the repeated phrase “Let Justice Roll” that you have practised.

Content

In this story there is a woman – a widow – so she's a vulnerable person. Normally, a woman in the ancient world would depend on a man who had legal citizenship to look after her, and defend her in court if needed. But a widow might not have anyone to help her with this.

But this widow, this woman knows what is right and so she keeps calling out 'Grant me Justice' or another way of saying that is 'Let Justice Roll'

This is not a story about nagging, or being annoying, it's not about how many times we have to ask God for him to listen and act. Not at all. This is a story about the importance of Justice to God.

We are going to read Jesus' story together, and we are going to amplify the theme of justice to one another. Four times, when the request 'Grant Justice' appears, we will sing together the phrase we have learned 'Let Justice Roll'.

Lead reading and singing phrases. Repeat.

Sing whole of 'Let Justice Roll'.

Consequence

Let's be encouraged that God is not like the judge. Not one bit. God is for justice! For Justice completely! Jesus tells this story to encourage us to pray boldly, full of faith and heartily for Justice, knowing that God is on the side of justice.



Intergen

www.intergen.org.au



Art by Chris Booth

Passage: Luke 18: 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people.

In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice (**Let justice roll**) against my opponent.'

For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice (**Let justice roll**), so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'

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

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

I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them (**Let justice roll**). And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"



Intergen

www.intergen.org.au