

Gulf Cove UMC
Winter Study: Women of the Bible

Week 2 Focus: Women Warriors



New Testament: The Persistent Widow

The Persistent Widow, an unnamed woman, acts like a warrior in her pursuit of justice. Living in a time with no safety nets for widows—apart from family support, which she appears not to have—she relentlessly confronts an unjust judge. With no one else to speak on her behalf, she refuses to be silent, pressing her case until justice is finally granted.

Opening Prayer

Historical Snapshot: The Persistent Widow in Context

Date: First century CE, during Roman rule of Judea

Location: Likely a local town or city in Judea, under Roman legal authority

Scripture Reference: Luke 18:1–8

Role in God's Story: Jesus presents the widow as a model of faithful persistence. Though powerless by society's standards, her refusal to give up reveals a faith that actively trusts God and insists that injustice will not have the final word.

Scripture: See other side

Food for Thought: Rev. Patty

Discussion:

1. What does the widow's persistence reveal about her understanding of justice and her own worth?
2. The judge grants justice not because it is right, but because she refuses to go away. What does this say about power, persistence, and moral responsibility?
3. Jesus contrasts the unjust judge with God. How does this parable shape our understanding of God's character?
4. In Jesus' time, widows were among the most vulnerable people because they lacked power, protection, and voice. Without naming political parties or specific policies, where do you see people today who struggle to be heard or treated fairly—and what do you think faith asks of us in response?
5. Where do you see similar examples of quiet but determined courage today?

Closing Prayer/Requests



Scripture: Luke 18:1-8 (NRSV)

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

18 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”