

For St. James Sunday School Students – 3/14/2021

Sunday School continues with 1 p.m. Zoom connection

Back to our regular time: For our 26th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, for a virtual get-together to talk about how we can observe Great Lent to ready ourselves for commemorating the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior on Easter. We also will discuss the story of an unjust judge who ignored a widow's plea for justice. This parable teaches us, among other things, not to give up

Please check out the interesting video at this [link](#).

And please join us:

Meeting Link, ID and Passcode for 1 p.m. Sunday

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554240465?pwd=M1Jvc1pZMjhUV29ESU1nN3BzT3hjUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 5424 0465

Today is the Sunday of the Judge



To underscore the importance of prayer, Jesus tells the parable of an unjust judge who neglects the pleas of a poor widow until, tired of her persistence, he hands down a decision and sends her away. Just as Jesus used the example of a less than virtuous steward (last Sunday's Lenten lesson), he now uses the example of an exasperated, self-centered judge. If *he* submits to the supplication of the widow, won't a merciful, loving God hear and respond to our needs? Prayer is one of the essential ways we grow closer to God. It was the only thing the disciples asked Jesus to teach them!

Reflection: *When do you pray? Only at certain times? When you feel angry or sad? Thankful? Memorize I Thessalonians 5:16-18 as a good*

mantra for prayerful living.

*Department of Christian Education
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)*

Bible Readings for Sunday, March 14

From Today's Readings

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Luke 17:20-18:14 Jesus describes the Second Coming as a time like any other in some ways, with people in pursuit of their usual pleasures; joys as well as suffering continue. Yet we learn that his Coming will be as bold as a bolt of lightning. We cannot be prepared for it if we have not lived all along as God's devoted children; if we haven't, we will be reluctant to leave behind earthly preoccupations for heavenly ones. This description is immediately followed by The Parable of the Unjust Judge (or Persistent Widow). See below for more on this parable and reflection questions. *Discuss/reflect: How does Jesus' example of Lot's wife looking back clarify the meaning of verse 33: "whoever tries to keep their life will lose it and whoever loses their life will preserve it"?*

Philippians 3:1-4:9 "Rejoice in the Lord!" St. Paul declares, since all that once was valued is nothing, rubbish (lit: dung; 3:8) compared to knowing Jesus. A life for those who eschew earthly things for a glorious "citizenship in heaven" is marked by joy, gratitude, a worry-free serenity. And a peace from God that "transcends all understanding." (4:7) *Discuss/reflect: How would you finish the sentence in v. 13 as you try to draw ever closer to Christ: "...one thing I do: _____."*

Isaiah 65:8-25 In prophesying to postexilic Israel, Isaiah shares God's promises of judgment to the disobedient but salvation and renewal to the faithful – a world where there will no longer be tears and where the wolf and the lamb will peacefully co-exist. *Discuss/reflect: "I called and you did not answer...I spoke and you did not listen...you chose what displeases me..." (v.12) In some ways, could this describe you? How?*



For a video about a judge learning a lesson from a persistent widow, please click this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf7HKgzyN3c):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf7HKgzyN3c>