

Dramatization of Luke 18:1-8 – Seeking Justice for Palestinian Children

(Adapted dramatization from UCC Seeds and Sowers Vol. 9, Fall 1993)

Introduction: In the parable of the unjust judge, Luke 18:1-8, the “widow” represents the most oppressed and vulnerable segment of society as she persists in pleading for the judge to “grant me justice from my oppressor.” It is persistence and justice that eventually brings peace to both the judge and the widow.

Judge: (at front) I’m the judge, I decide who gets what. I never bend the rules, for anybody.

(Woman at door of sanctuary, knocking vigorously, uses a block of wood to spare knuckles.)

Judge: (bored, yawning) Yes, who is it?

Woman: I want justice for my children.

Judge: Oh, it’s you again. Go away. Can’t you see I’m busy!

Woman: (coming forward) I will not go away! I want justice for my children, for all my children!

Judge: I told you before, you’ve got no grounds for an appeal. So shut up!

Woman: (continues up the aisle) No, I will not be silenced. I want justice. My children are being taken from their beds at night by armed soldiers. The children are mistreated, alone and afraid. It isn’t right.

Judge: Oh, this drivel again!

Woman: - I don’t know where they have taken my children. They won’t let me go to find them and to bring them home again...

Judge: (more agitated) I don’t want to hear about this.

Woman: - I hear that my children have been taken across the border where I cannot go. They are detained with other children and adults. Some have gotten COVID from the security guards. You have power and can speak up for the children. Please speak up for justice for my children.

Judge: (getting upset) You are in contempt of court! (bangs gavel on table) Now get out of my court and out of my mind.

Woman: (comes closer) - Why is it that no one in the world who knows what is happening to the children will speak up for justice and the human rights of the children? There are laws that say an occupying power is responsible for the well being of those it occupies. Israel has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child that commit them to protect children. Canadians care about children that need protection from violence, and abuse. We believe in justice and peace. You can speak up for justice. Please help these children who are in trouble. –

Judge: (exasperated) Leave me alone!

Woman: (nose to nose, yelling at the judge) - I want security and peace. You know that our people are treated unfairly by those who occupy and oppress us. You say you believe in peace and justice. Speak up for justice for our people - for the children.

Judge: Out! Out! Get out of my life!!!

Woman: No! I insist on justice! I demand justice! You can shout all you want, but I will be here as long as my children, God's children, are mistreated.

Judge: Leave me alone! I hate you, I hate your God. I hate your justice! Why can't you just leave things as they are, without upsetting everything?

Women: (like a chant) I want justice for my children! I want justice for my children!

Judge: (covering ears with hands) ENOUGH, ENOUGH! I can't stand it anymore! (In despair, he turns to the congregation) What am I to do with this woman and her demands for justice, justice, justice?