

Complex Parables

THE CHALLENGE BELOW THE SURFACE



Trust God to Bring Justice

Luke 18:1-8

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¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ² He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴ "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ⁸ I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"





1. Always pray

2. Don't give up

Why is that **relevant** to us?

Reality...

We don't always pray

We do give up



Questions this parable raises:

- What has happened to the widow?
- Is it important where this story sits in terms of the other stories before and after it? Are they related?
- What does 'justice' mean?
- Why would the disciples give up – what is Jesus concerned about?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about people?
- What does 'faith' mean?
- What is up with the last verse 'but when the son of man comes will he find faith on the earth?'



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide. The top portion shows a night scene of a house with a garage and a tree in front of it. The bottom portion shows a vintage Panasonic television set with a glowing screen, sitting on a dark surface.

What is Jesus communicating to his followers?

Don't Step into God's Role

³ And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

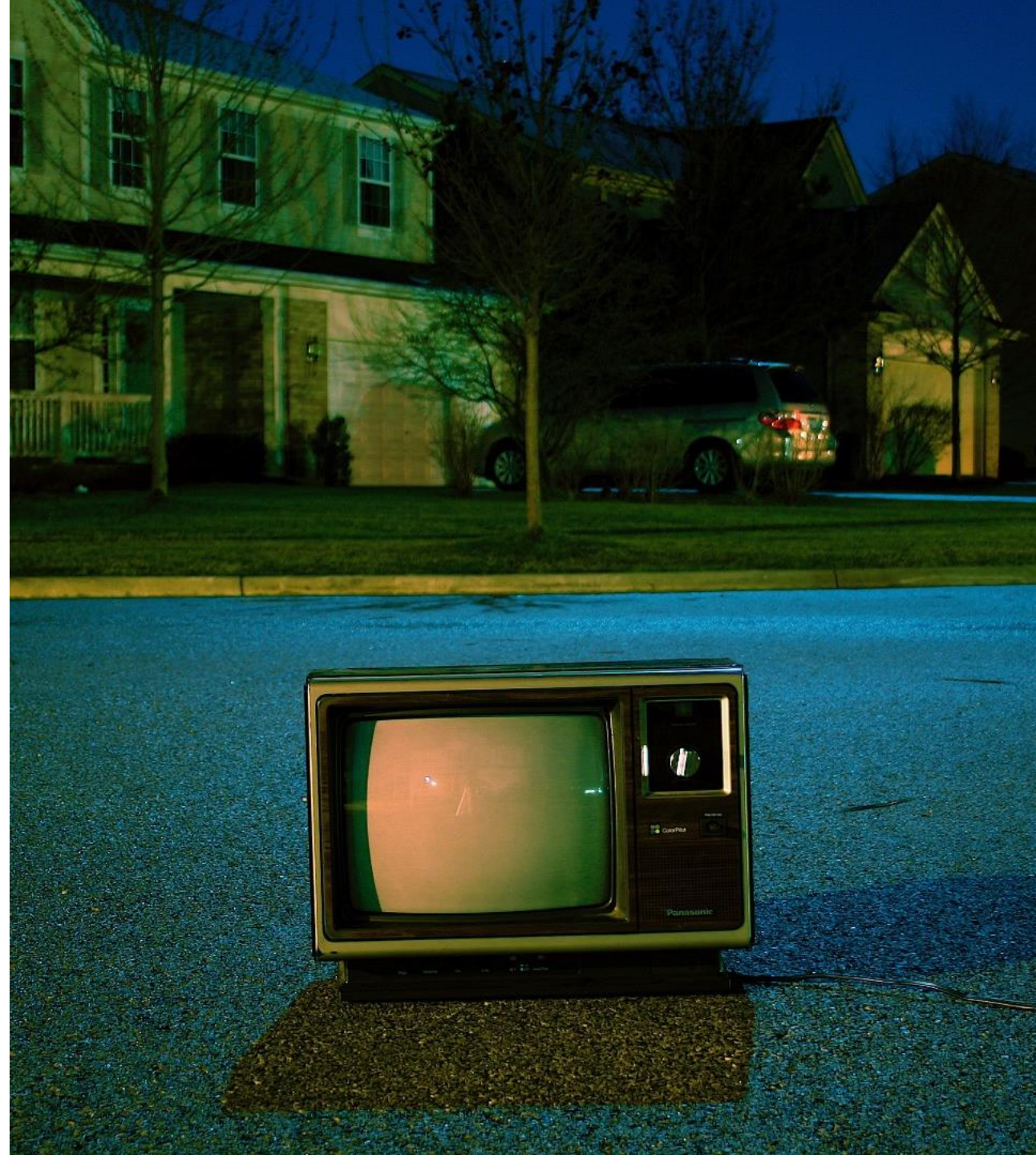


What is Jesus communicating to his followers?

Don't Give Up

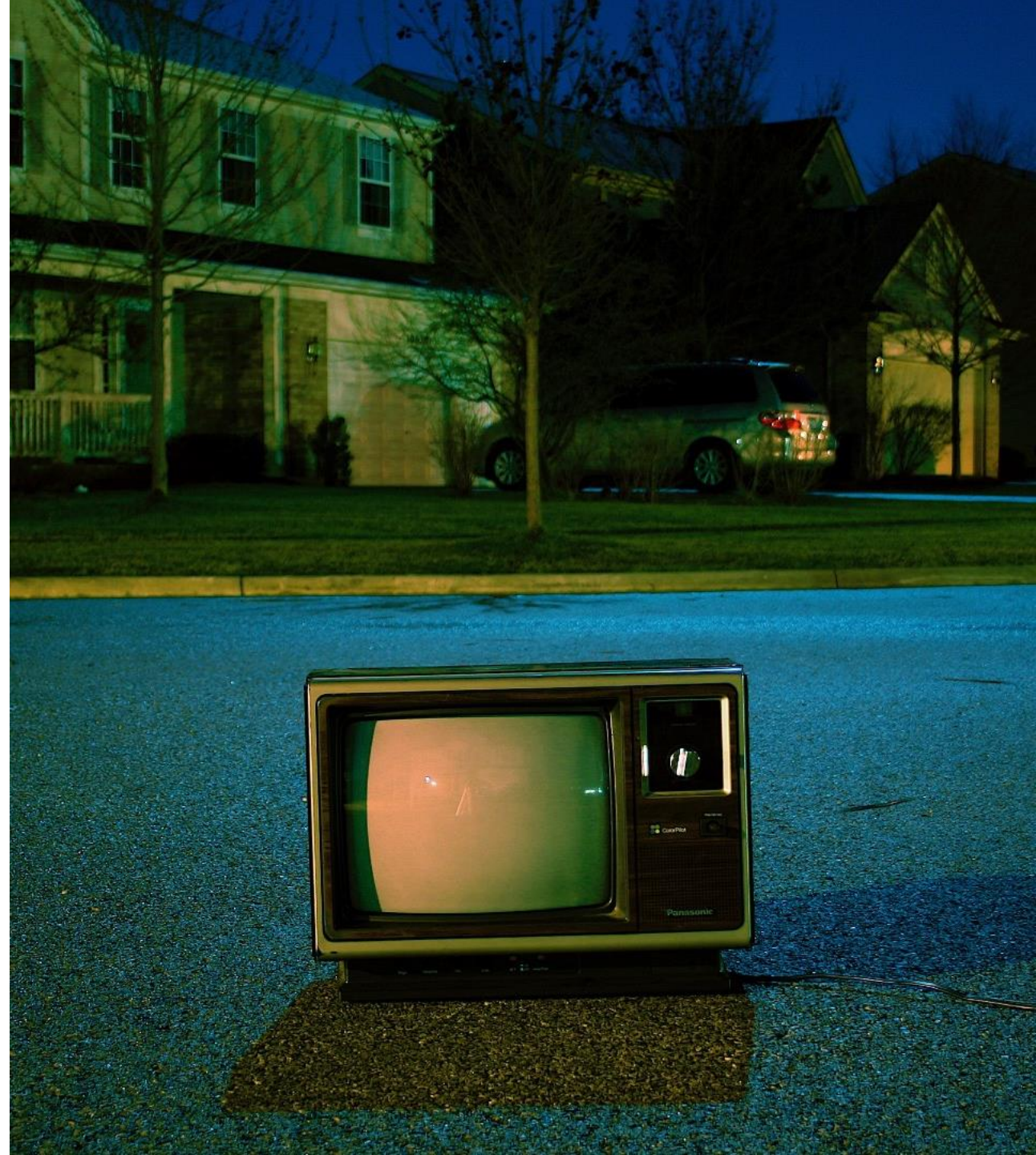
¹ Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

God is
NOTHING like
the unjust judge



Faith

‘Trust in the character of
one who can be relied
upon.’





Jesus tells us to always pray and not give up because we can trust God's character.

But you, Lord, are a **compassionate** and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Psalm 86:15

God **heard the boy crying**, and **the** angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What is **the** matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has **heard the boy crying** as he lies **there**.

Genesis 21:17

...neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love** of **God** that **is** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

And so we know and rely on the **love God** has for us. **God is love**. Whoever lives in **love** lives in **God**, and **God** in them.

1 John 4:16

And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a **God of justice**.

Psalms 50:6

Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a **God of justice**. Blessed are all who wait for him!

Isaiah 30:18

- Persisting in prayer
- Not giving up
- Trusting God to bring justice

These all
demonstrate our faith

