

Daily Encounters

... Living Sunday's Word

***There was a judge in a certain town who had neither fear of God nor respect for anyone.
(Luke 18:2)***

Luke 18:1-8

One of the many graces of living in South Africa is that our judiciary is still relatively independent. It is not suffering wholesale “capture” like many of the other state services. There is no doubt that some magistrates and judges are in the pockets of politicians and businesspeople. Nevertheless, we can still have reasonable confidence in a fair outcome if we ever have recourse to the courts to settle a legal matter. This is not the case in every country on our continent.

In this week’s parable, Jesus is not talking about our South African style of systemic corruption. That is a story for another day. Instead, Jesus is pointing to the personal corruption of the individual judge, whose arrogance blocks him from recognising the sovereignty of God and the dignity of the people he serves. If he ever knew it, he has forgotten that he has been appointed to an office to help people in their distress. He has taken the power and glory to himself, while ignoring his duty and obligations.

The role of the Judicial Service Commission is so important in selecting men and women of integrity. Candidates who are compromised ultimately cause more chaos than harmony. Sociopaths can do significant damage in a position which requires deep empathy. Poor people suffer from their careerism or lack of compassion.

What social roles do I play that require me to respect the dignity of other people? Do I exercise my limited power for the good of people around me? What can I do when I encounter toxic power games?

*Loving Lord,
thank you for the life and vocation of our compatriots who are
committed to administering public justice.
Help us to be a just society, and to entrust our sensitive services
to people who really care.
Amen.*



Nostra Aetate

60th ANNIVERSARY

Please join us at the Jesuit Institute of South Africa to commemorate this turning point in the Church's relationship with our brothers and sisters of other faiths

RSVP

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6.30pm -8pm
28 October 2025



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