

LUKE 18 (V. 1-17)  
LESSON 36



# LUKE 18:1-8

The Parable of the Unjust Judge

A Parable on Bold and Persistent Prayer

## What is the first parable about?

**v.1-8**

- ❖ Pray at all times and not lose heart
- ❖ God will give justice to those who cry to Him.

Jesus begins v7 by asking a rhetorical question,  
“now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry  
to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?”

v.7

- ❖ “Will not God absolutely bring about justice?”
- ❖ God’s involvement is not accidental or indifferent.
- ❖ The pleas of God’s “chosen ones,” and he will hear.

Jesus in v.8 shifts to an emphatic pronouncement, “I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly”

v.8

- ❖ This pronouncement creates a problem, for it seems undeniable that God, like the unjust judge, delays in vindicating injustice.
- ❖ We know the phrase: “If God is good, why does God allow evil?”
- ❖ In this case we might ask: “If God is good, why does he delay in eradicating evil?”

“I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly”

- ❖ The problem lies with the word: “quickly”.
- ❖ The Greek prepositional phrase behind “quickly,” en tachei, occurs twenty times in the Greek Bible, and with four varying connotations.

- ❖ Immediately

- ❖ Soon

- ❖ Suddenly

- ❖ Surely

“I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly”

v.8

- ❖ In the kingdom of God, justice is inherent within the character of God. God does not hear the longings and cries of his elect with indifference.
- ❖ In God’s sovereign plan of salvation, however, timing of justice is combined with forbearance, which is intended to lead sinners to repentance.

v.8

At the end of the parable, Jesus asked a question about His coming. “However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”

What is Jesus getting at with this question?

*“However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”*

v.8

- ❖ When Christ returns, will there be anyone here who calls out in faith day and night?
- ❖ Will the second coming of Jesus find us persisting in prayer that his kingdom will come?
- ❖ Or will it find us trapped on the housetop trying desperately to get back into the house to find the possessions that we rely on more than we do on God? Luke 17:31



# LUKE 18:1-8 LUKE 11:5-13

Comparison of Parables

How does the Parable in Luke 18:1-8 compare with the parable in Luke 11:5-13?

- ❖ Both parables underscore the virtue of persistence and determination in Prayer.



# LUKE 18:9-14

The Parable of the Pharisee and the  
Tax Collector

## What is the next parable about?

**v.9-14**

- ❖ Two men are praying: A Pharisee and a tax collector
- ❖ Pharisee thanked God that he wasn't like others.
- ❖ Tax collector cried for mercy and called himself a sinner.

“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

## v.14

- ❖ The Tax Collector is the one justified.
- ❖ The Pharisee trusted in himself that he was righteous, and he saw others with contempt.
- ❖ Exalting in self, results in being humbled.
- ❖ Humility leads to being exalted.



# LUKE 18:1-8 LUKE 18:9-14

Similarities between Parables

## What similarities do you see in the two parables?

- ❖ Jesus prefaces both parables with the attitude of the heart.
- ❖ Both passages remind readers that God knows the difference between a parade of righteousness and the intention of the heart.

**v.1 & 9**

# What similarities do you see in the two parables?

- ❖ Jesus concludes both with authoritative pronouncements

**v.8 & 14** ❖ Both parables address justice

- ❖ In v8 – Justice (the act of giving justice, including punishment, if it's the basis of what is rightly deserved)
- ❖ In v14 – Justified (to be put right, to vindicate, to declare righteous)

# What similarities do you see in the two parables?

- ❖ Both parables are related by the theme of prayer.
  - ❖ In the first parable, Jesus warns against faintheartedness (the trait of lacking boldness and courage), especially in prayer
  - ❖ In the second parable he speaks against overconfidence, especially in virtue.

**v.1-14**



# LUKE 18:10-12 PSALM 26:1-5

Comparison of Prayers

How does this Psalm of David (Psalm 26:1-5) compare with the prayer of this Pharisee in Luke 18:10-12?

- ❖ The Pharisee's prayer is a model in Judaism. "Standing to pray" was the preferred posture of prayer in Judaism.
- ❖ The Pharisee begins prayer with a customary Berakah, "I thank you God...." He prays "to himself," so as not to be contaminated by sin and sinfulness.

We will see the difference when we read the rest of David's prayer (Psalm 26:6-12).

- ❖ Remember, Jesus is concerned with the heart not just the deeds.

How might you describe the self-righteous today?



# LUKE 18:15-17

Why do you think Luke includes this in his Gospel account?

**v.15-17**

- ❖ Luke may have included the account here because children, like the tax collector in the preceding parable, were unlikely candidates for divine favor.

# What does it mean to enter the kingdom of God like a child?

**v.17**

- ❖ Jesus emphasizes in the strongest possible way that the kingdom is offered to the helpless, needy, powerless, and weak.
- ❖ Our “merit” does not define our reward.



VERSES IN THE BOOK  
OF LUKE WITH THE  
PHRASE: "KINGDOM OF  
GOD"

# What are we called to do concerning the “kingdom of God”?

- ❖ Preach / Proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God
  - ❖ 4:43, 8:1, 9:2, 9:11, 9:60, 16:16

Do you see a change in how the phrase is used progressively through the book?

❖ The Preach the kingdom verses are mostly early in the book while, the Secrets / Unknowns of the kingdom of God are mostly later in the book.

❖ 19:11, 21:31, 22:16, 22:18, 23:51-52

v.17

What key things do these verses say concerning those that are in “the kingdom of God” and those that are not?

❖ The kingdom is Yours / Partake in / Is Near

❖ 6:20, 7:28, 9:27, 10:9, 10:11, 11:20, 13:29 14:14, 17:21, 18:16, 18:17, 21:31

❖ Hinderances to the kingdom of God

❖ 9:62, 13:28, 18:24, 18:25, 18:29