

Reflection Questions: Luke 18:1-8

For the message, "Prayer & the Coming Revolution of God" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on March 27, 2022

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 18:1-8

Note: This parable is told in the wake of a question about when the kingdom of God would come (cf. 17:20. The coming kingdom of God was the major theme of Jesus teaching, cf. Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:1-2; 9:10-11). Jesus answered that the kingdom would appear suddenly, 17:20-27 (cf. Luke 12:40).

1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. **3** And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' **4** For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'"

6 And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says.

7 And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? **8** I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

A summary of the message:

We continue to pray for the coming kingdom not because we are trying to get God's attention, but because we already have it. When we pray longing prayers for the coming of God's kingdom, our hearts are actually reflecting the longing heart of God.

Key Points:

- Jesus is NOT saying that God is like the unjust judge who begrudgingly answers our requests if we pester him enough. No, instead he's saying that if even corrupt judges who care nothing about justice will sometimes grant justice just to get rid of casework, HOW MUCH MORE will our God who loves justice grant justice to his people who cry out to him for it.
- The connection of the parable to the original question about the kingdom is that when the kingdom comes, God will set this world to right including giving justice to his people who have cried out for it. Our prayers will finally have been answered.

- The God who loves justice and righteousness himself will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. So Jesus says, “You ought always to pray, and do not lose heart.”
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Let’s get started...

- What is your current strategy to deal with the onslaught about bad news in our world?

QUESTIONS

1. Let’s think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- How would you answer the question, “What kind of me is God calling me to be?” Flesh that out.
- How does this text help us to understand our personal stories in the light of God’s story of redemption?
- Am I currently taking this teaching from Jesus seriously? If I really believed and held to this, how would things change? How would my prayers be different?

2. Let’s think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus’ followers.

- What does this text assume to be true about the community of God’s people?
- What role should our community of faith play in forming us into the the kind of people who long for God’s coming kingdom? What might that look like when we are tempted to give up praying and lose heart?
- What kind of community is this text calling us to become for the sake of the world? In other words, how does our prayers (“Your kingdom come...”) play a part in the coming future?

3. Let’s think about how this text applies to our city.

- How can we help others who long for justice connect the dots to the God of justice? In other words, how can we help others who long for a better world understand that their longings find their fulfillment in the coming kingdom of God?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....