

## Luke 18

### *Parables on Prayer and Wealth*

#### Questions for Discussion

? Have you ever had a situation in your life where you needed to completely (or maybe blindly) trust someone? What was the outcome?

#### **Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ <sup>4</sup> “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’” <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> 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?”

? What is the point of the parable according to verse 1?

- Why is persistent prayer important?

? What are the similarities and differences between the judge and God? Do they have different motives for bringing about justice?

? Jesus reveals an important point in verse 8, that prayer and faith are connected. Why do you think he makes this connection?

? Knowing that God is just and that He hears our prayers, how does this influence and affect the way you pray? Does that change your level of trust in Him?

#### **Luke 18:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

? What ways are children different from adults?

? What does it mean to receive the kingdom of heaven like a child?

? When we look to God to fulfill our needs like a child looks to a parent, how does this change our trust in God?

#### **Luke 18:18-29 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>19</sup> “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’” <sup>21</sup> “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. <sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>23</sup> When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. <sup>24</sup> Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

<sup>27</sup> Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.” <sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!” <sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

? Beginning in verse 19, Jesus is talking with a ruler. The ruler had kept every commandment but Jesus says he was still lacking something and must sell all of his possessions. What was it that the ruler was lacking, and how would selling his possessions change this status?

? Why is the ruler saddened by what Jesus is asking him to do? Would you find it hard to sell all of your possessions, why or why not?

? Trusting in God fully requires maximum vulnerability. Why is it often easier to trust in tangible things, such as wealth, instead of God?

**Luke 18:31-33 (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

? How does Jesus’ death and resurrection show His trustworthiness?

? What kind of example did Jesus set for our level of trust in God? How can we follow His example more fully?

**For Discussion and Accountability**

? What things hold you back from completely and vulnerably trusting God?

? In what ways would your life change if you fully trusted God the way Jesus did?