**Parables of Jesus part 19**

Various Scriptures

“I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” -Luke 18:8

**What would you say are the top three reasons people give up on prayer?**

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\*Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Lack of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Context:** In the midst of His earthly ministry, Jesus had been speaking to the Pharisees and disciples in Luke 17:20-37 about when the kingdom of God would come. He told His disciples to not follow or \_\_\_\_\_\_ after those who claim to have insight and direction on the end times.

He also said it will be just like the days of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In both instances, people were eating, drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage all the way up until destruction came. As a result of Jesus sharing these examples of warning, he told them two parables to teach them how to prepare for the return of the Son of Man.

*Above all, be aware of this: Scoffers will come in the last days, scoffing and following their own evil desires, saying “Where is his coming that he promised? Ever since our ancestors fell asleep, all things continue as they have ever since the beginning of creations.” 2 Peter 3:3-4*

Jesus often told His disciples to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Matthew 26:41

**The Parable of the Persistent Widow: Luke 18:1-8**

**What does it mean to pray? Matthew 6:6-8**

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*Pray:* Greek word; Proseuchomai “towards, exchange” to exchange wishes; interact with the Lord by switching human wishes for His wishes as He imparts faith.

**How often should we pray? Ephesians 6:18**

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**When should we give up praying? 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

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* **Characters**

Who are to two characters in this parable?

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What did you notice about the judge in verse 2?

\*Didn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God

\*Didn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people

In Jesus’ day widows were severely mistreated. Mark 12:38-40

What did the widow do and what did she want in verse 3?

\*She kept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and asking for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from her enemy.

* **Concern**

The widow’s concern was to get justice, but notice the judge’s concern in verses 4-5:

For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, “Even though I don’t fear God or respect people yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn’t wear me out be her persistent coming.”

*Wear out:* Greek word hupopiazo; meaning to strike under the eye, bruise, annoy, harass, worry, exhaust.

Whether this judge was selfish, didn’t want to be nagged to death, or gain a bad reputation, we learn that he eventually gave her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* **Conclusion**

In verse 6 Jesus says, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.”

To put it another way, if this unjust judge is concerned about protecting his reputation, how much more is our Father in Heaven? **Psalm 23:4; 106:8**

If this persistent widow can get the unjust judge to respond, how much more will our Father in Heaven respond when we remain persistent in prayer? **Matthew 7:7-8**

**\*\*\*Remember, just because God delays does not mean we have been denied.\*\*\***

**Why is it important that we remain persistent in prayer?**

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\*To remind yourself of your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God and your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that he will answer your prayers.

**How can we be sure we are praying for things that are in the will of God?**

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**A:** Acclaim God’s name and power. Be in Awe of Him

**C:** Confess your sins, wrongs, and weaknesses.

**T:** Give Thanks for God’s love and care for you.

**S:** Supplication, ask God for His blessing, healing, forgiveness, and justice.

**Psalm 37:4,; Philippians 4:6**

**Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector: Luke 18:9-14**

**What is pride? Proverbs 8:13**

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**What happens when we are prideful? Jeremiah 49:16**

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* **Characters**

Who were the two characters in this parable?

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Pharisee: Religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the day. They were the “distinguished.”

Tax Collector: Jews who collected \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from their own people of behalf of the Roman government. They were the “despised”

* **Concern**

The Pharisee’s prayer was \_\_\_\_\_\_-centered. How many times in his prayer does he focus on himself? What else stands out about his prayer?

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In contrast to the Pharisee, the Tax Collector’s prayer was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_- centered. Notice how he prays in verse 13:

\*Standing afar off

\*Head bowed

\*Eyes toward the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Remorseful

\*Confessing

* **Conclusion**

Jesus says, I tell you this one, referring to the Tax Collector, went to his house justified rather than the other;

*Justified:* Greek word; dikaioo legal term, to show to be righteous, declare righteous, acquit.

The Pharisee claimed to be righteous on his own, but the Tax Collector was made right by God.

In summary of both parables, Jesus is saying, in order to be ready when he returns we must have faith, pray with persistence and walk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord.

**What can we do to be consistent in embracing a spirit of humility in our prayer lives?**

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**\*\*Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking about yourself less.\*\***

**5 Benefits of Humility…**

**\*Guidance from God: Psalm 25:9**

**\*Blessings from God: Isaiah 66:2**

**\*Grace from God: James 4:6**

**\*Promotion from God: 1 Peter 5:6**

**\*Favor from God: 1 Peter 5:5**

**What is one thing you learned in this lesson that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**“If you are a stranger to prayer, you are a stranger to the greatest source of power known to human beings.” -Billy Sunday**