



following JESUS
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Prayers that Touch
the Heart of God (I):
Persevering Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

Speaker:
Ps Lim Wei-en

Recap

Pray shamelessly!
(Luke 11:5-13)



Recap

Pray shamelessly!
(Luke 11:5-13)

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.” (Luke 11:2)



Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’”

Luke 18:1-8

“For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually come and attack me!’”

Luke 18:1-8

And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. 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? 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?”

Context

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. (Luke 18:1)

Context (Luke 17:22-37)

- “The day of the Son of Man” (17:22, 24,26, 30)



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“Do not go running off after them.”



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 - a. turn to false saviours (17:23-25)
“Do not go running off after them.”
 - b. be absorbed in the routines and comforts of earthy life (17:26-29)



Context (Luke 17:22-37)

- “The day of the Son of Man” (17:22, 24, 26, 30)
- Response to increasing hostility:
 - a. turn to false saviours (17:23-25)
“Do not go running off after them.”
 - b. be absorbed in the routines and comforts of earthy life (17:26-29)
“Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it”



Context

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that **they should always pray and not give up**. (Luke 18:1)

Characters (18:2-5)

...there was a **judge** who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.” (18:2)



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...there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.” (18:2)

...there was a **widow** in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me justice against my adversary.’ (18:3)



Characters (18:2-5)



How the widow sees the judge



How the judge sees the widow

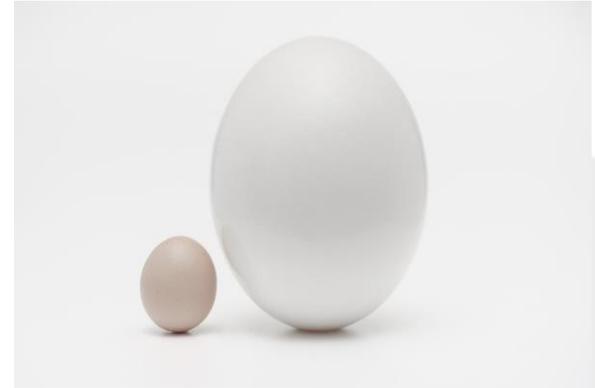
Characters (18:2-5)

...yet because this widow keeps **bothering me**, I will see that she gets justice, so that she **won't eventually come and attack me!**”



Contrast (18:6-8a)

If a less-than-noble character knows how to do good, **how much more** will a perfectly just God do what is good!



Contrast (18:6-8a)

God is not like the unjust judge! He is **holy, just, compassionate.**



Charge (18:8b)

However, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on the earth?**



Charge (18:8b)

- The days leading up to the Son's return will be filled with **increasing hostility** towards him. (John 15:18-16:4, 2 Tim. 3:1-13)



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- "Always **pray and not give up**" (Luke 18:1)



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- Jesus calls us instead to **trust in him and endure in faith** while we wait for his return. (Luke 17:33, 18:1, c.f. 2 Pet. 3)
- "Always **pray and not give up**" (Luke 18:1)
- In prayer, we learn to **depend on God** and **follow Jesus**, who persevered to the end.



Pray

For our hearts not to be desensitized to how hostile the world is to God.

To not grow cold or callous towards the injustice we see.

For godly grief that laments how far our Father's world is from what he intended it to be.

For grace and perseverance as we minister in such a world. Pray for brothers and sisters in closed countries who serve God in adversity.

For unbelieving family members and friends to encounter and believe in Jesus.

For a deeper longing for Jesus' return, when God's justice will prevail and every evil will be cast out. When we will be made sinless, whole, perfect, and be united with Christ.



following JESUS
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Prayers that Touch
the Heart of God (II):
Humble Prayer

Luke 18:9-14

Speaker:
Ps Lim Wei-en

Context

However, when the Son of Man comes, **will he find faith on the earth?** (18:8b)



Luke 18:9-14

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Luke 18:9-14

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

Luke 18:9-14

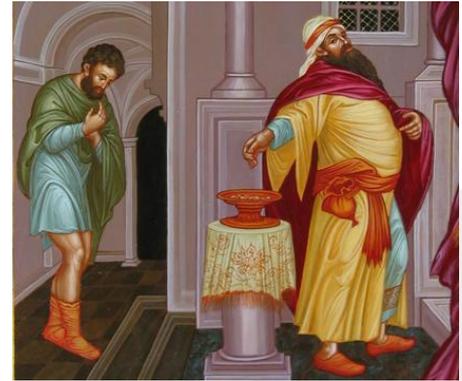
“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”

Luke 18:9-14

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Characters (18:10)

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**.



Contrast (18:11-13)

The Prayer of Pride

The Pharisee **stood by himself** and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'



Contrast (18:11-13)

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Contrast (18:11-13)

The Prayer of Humility

“But the tax collector **stood at a distance**. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’”



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“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**’



Charge (18:14)

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home **justified before God**. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”



Charge (18:14)

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. **For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.**”



Pray

**“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.”**

