

Luke 18

Luke 18.1-8 – The Parable of the Unjust Judge (found only in *Luke*)

V1 – Subject of *Luke 17.22-27*? The Second Coming of Christ

-This is a continuation of the same thought

-**Is it possible to get discouraged as we await the Second Coming?** Yes, probably every generation of Christians feels that things are more wicked than in past generations

-**What will be the theme of this parable?** To pray and not faint (or lose heart)

-Also, to continue to make our requests known to God

V2 – Characteristics of this judge? No fear of God, no respect for other humans

-**How would he compare with God?** Just the opposite

V3 – How helpless are most widows? Desolate and without financial support; taken advantage of by evil people – See 1 Timothy 5.3-10

-**Why didn't she just bribe the judge?** No money

-**Was her cause just?** Yes, it was legal

V4-5 – Did his attitude change toward her? No

-**What made him change?** She was irritating him

-His change was entirely selfish – he just wanted to get rid of her

V6 – The conclusion is coming

V7 – Is God more or less willing to hear us than the judge? Much more willing

-See Matt. 7.9-11

-**What happens when our children keep begging us for something (a bike, a trip to some theme park, a new electronic device, etc.)?** Most of us will eventually give in to their request

-**Will God delay long over our requests?** No

V8 – The question is not, "Will God answer our prayers?"

-**What is the question?** Will anyone still believe in prayer (and be praying) at the Second Coming of Christ?

Luke 18.9-14 – Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican

V9 – The subjects of this parable? People who trust in themselves

-**Examples?** Pharisees (*Phil. 3.6* – Paul said that he was found blameless according to the Law)

-**How did the Pharisees see other people?** With contempt

V10 – What two people went up to the temple to pray? A publican (a tax-collector) and a Pharisee

-We assume that both were Jews (going to the temple)

-**How did the Pharisees take the Old Law?** They obeyed in the tiniest details, but they missed the big principles of God's laws – See Matt. 23.23-26

V11 – Why did the Pharisee stand? To be seen

- We all need to give thanks in our prayers
- For what did the Pharisee give thanks?** Himself
- Why was he thankful for himself?** He was so good

V 12 – What did he do to prove his goodness? He fasted twice a week, he tithed
-Did these things "help" God? No

V 13 – Why was the tax collector standing far off? He felt unworthy to get closer to the temple
 -Notice his prayer – **What is the difference between justice and mercy?** (thought question)
 He cast himself on the mercy of God

V 14 – Why did God hear the prayer of the tax collector? The tax collector knew that he was a sinner
 -We are to be humble like the tax collector, not arrogant as the Pharisee was

Luke 18.15-17 – Jesus and the children

V 15 – Jesus had healed many adults

- Why not try bringing their babies to Christ?
- Not children – Luke uses a specific Greek word for *babies*
- Matthew and Mark: *little children*
- The purpose of taking babies to Jesus?** So that he could touch them (for a blessing or maybe a healing)
- What attitude did the disciples have?** They rebuked the parents for "bothering" Jesus with these babies
- Why would the disciples have tried to keep the babies away from Jesus?** Babies are noisy, sometimes smelly, require a lot of attention, and generally are a lot of trouble

V 16 – What was the reaction of Jesus? He was very upset with the apostles

- The apostles were not to keep the little children away from the Lord
- In some congregations, the adults receive most of the attention, but we need to remember the children and babies

The writer of these notes is firmly opposed to having a special worship service just for the children

- They need to experience worship with their parents and older brothers and sisters
- The main objection is the noise, but we have no examples anywhere in the Bible of children being excluded from worship and sent off for their own service
- Not only do they miss the main service, but there are adults who take care of them who also miss worship
- Yes, they are noisy and sometimes misbehave and take extra attention, but our Lord set the example here for all congregations of the Lord's people

The writer of these notes attended a certain congregation when we were moving to that town

- We entered just as the doors to the auditorium were being closed
- We noticed that the auditorium was as quiet as a funeral, and as we looked around, we noticed that our two children were the only children there – the other children had all been removed from the worship and sent off to another room
- We never attended that congregation again

V 17 – How important is a child-like attitude? We cannot get into the kingdom without it

- Many times children see the truth immediately (sooner than adults)
- Remember the account of the emperor's new clothes

Luke 18.18-30 – The Account of the Rich Young Ruler (See: *Matt. 19.16-29, Mark 10.17-30*)

V 18 – Probably one of the leading figures among the Jews

- Did he regard Jesus to be the Messiah?** No, just an outstanding rabbi

V 19 – So many people miss the point of this dialogue

- Either Jesus was God or he was not good
- Can we call a mere man "Good Teacher"?** Not "good" in the sense of being sinless

V 20 – **To what does Jesus refer this man?** The Ten Commandments

- If we kept the Ten Commandments perfectly in the First Century, would we be saved?** Yes, up until *Acts 2.38*, but no-one could have kept them perfectly

V 21 – **What opinion did the ruler have of himself?** Very high

- In his own view, he was blameless (as Paul thought he was before he became a Christian)

V 22 – Jesus hit at the man's only weak point

- What was that weakness?** Money
- There can be no divided allegiance on this subject
- We cannot serve God and Mammon

V 23 – **The reaction of the ruler?** Great sadness

- Jesus had given him the ultimate test, and this man had failed the test (how sad)

V 24 – Jesus could see the struggle going on in the man's thinking

V 25 – **Is it impossible for rich people to get to heaven?** Hard, but not impossible

- Read 1 Tim. 6.9-10**
- The temptation of money is very powerful
- The Jews of the First Century saw money as a sign that God had blessed a person, and they thought that poverty was a sign of God's curses on a person
- Jesus reversed that thinking
- We have the TV evangelists today who claim that if people will just follow them, God will bless them with great wealth
- But actually it is only the TV evangelists who get rich

V 26 – The impossibility of being saved

V 27 – **What is the only way by which we will be saved?** God's grace

V 28 – Peter spoke up and "reminded" Jesus of all that the apostles had done for him

V 29 – We all have to sacrifice

- We have to surrender unconditionally to be saved
- Just promising to put God first in our lives is no good

V 29-30 – How will God reward faithful Christians?

1. All kinds of new relatives in this life (faithful Christians around the world as our brothers and sisters)
2. Salvation in the life to come

Luke 18.31-34

V 31 – Where were they going? To Jerusalem

-Why? To fulfill all prophecy

V 32-33 – What would take place? The crucifixion

V 34 – Why did God not let them understand these things? Maybe they were not able to bear these things yet (in elementary school, you don't try to teach calculus to the students)

Luke 18.35-43

V 35 – Location? Jericho

V 36-37 – What did Bartimaeus want to know? What all the commotion was about

V 38 – He called out

-What? *Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me*

V 39 – The reaction of the crowd? Embarrassed by Bartimaeus

-Reaction of Bartimaeus? Got louder

V 40 – What did Jesus command? That Bartimaeus be brought closer to him

V 41-42 – How was the miracle carried out? By the words of Christ

V 43 – Result of the miracle? Bartimaeus glorified Jesus

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