

## WALK THE TALK //////////////////////////////////////



*This page is designed for you to apply what you have learned from the Scriptures. Our goal is not just “to know” but to “act upon what we know.” (His Word, Our Walk!)*

*We encourage you to discuss the following questions with family, friends and your LIFEgroup. Although you can review it on your own, it will be most useful to you when processed with others!*

1. On a scale of 1 to 10 with ten being the highest ranking, where do you rank yourself in terms of being a person of prayer?
2. What encourages you to pray? What discourages you to keep you from praying?
3. What does this parable reveal about the character of God? How should God's character keep us encouraged?
4. How does the reality of injustice influence your persistence in prayer?
5. Jesus links persistent prayer with the presence of faith at the close of this parable. How do you think prayer and faith work together?
6. How does this parable help to increase your faith?



September 24-25, 2016 | Persistent Waiting | Luke 18:1-8 | Steve Fish

1. In this series, it seems that every story or parable has a “SURPRISE,” or a twist ending, reminding us that things are not always as they SEEM.
2. We understand again that God's view of most EVERYTHING is quite different than MAN'S perspective.

### **FAINT OF HEART**

#### **• Jesus knows we can become discouraged.**

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

ἐγκακέω: to lose one's motivation to accomplish some valid goal—“to become discouraged, to lose heart, to give up.”

#### **• People give up on faith for different reasons.**

1. Jesus' TEACHING discouraged some who heard Him. They chose not to follow Him in the first place.

a.) Many turned away from Jesus when He laid the foundation of truth for what we practice as communion.

- John 6:53 Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

<sup>54</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.”

- John 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

b.) A young ruler could not abide by Jesus' TEACHING about wealth in order to follow Him.

- Mark 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

2. Jesus predicted a time when many would walk away from the faith because of HARDSHIP.

Matthew 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. <sup>10</sup> At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other . . ."

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS IN YOUR MIDST

In Luke 17:20-37 contains a hard TEACHING followed by a warning of impending judgment.

TEACHING: Do not be preoccupied with watching for signs because the Kingdom of God is already here ("in your midst").\*

HARDSHIP: Do not be deceived as you wait: when the Son of Man returns judgment will be sudden and certain.\*

- Luke 17:27b . . . Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

- Luke 17:29b . . . fire and sulfur rained down . . . and destroyed them all.

- Luke 17:30 It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

In light of these difficult realities, PRAYER is a major connecting point to God. Through prayer we make our requests known to Him.

### THE RULING OF A CORRUPT JUDGE

Luke 18:2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. <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 about men, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

The character of the Judge:

1. He did not fear God.
2. He did not have concern for any people - he did not care about the widow.
3. He did not care about justice.
4. He had one care: HIMSELF.

- "because this widow keeps bothering **me**. . . so that she won't eventually wear **me** out with her coming!"

The character of the widow:

1. She had no one to support her or her cause.
2. She was powerless to get justice on her own.
3. She was persistent in coming before the judge to present her case. She had to wait for some time to see justice imparted.

### THE RULE OF A JUST GOD

Luke 18:6 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>8a</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.

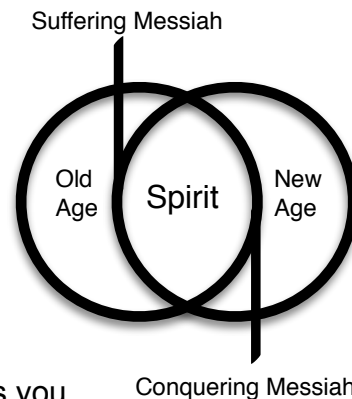
The character of God:

1. God is working on behalf of His chosen ones.
2. God is the lone arbitrator of justice.
- Romans 12:19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.
- Hebrews 10:30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."
3. He hears and knows the heartaches of His own.
4. God acts quickly to meet the needs of His own.

### PERSISTENT FAITH

Luke 18:8b However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Will Jesus find this type of faith? Will His chosen believe so much in His good character that they will be a people of prayer?



\*Model and teaching points  
are credited to Dr. Kent Eilers