



Luke 18- “Humility and Trust”

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 18

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

Open: Describe a time where you had to plead your case with someone, where you had to try to convince someone that you were right.

In God’s new age, everything would be new, fresh, and free from corruption, decay, evil, bitterness, pain, fear and death. And this is what Jesus was bringing in the present. Where Jesus was, and where people with humble and penitent trust accepted that God’s kingdom was active in and through him, there the life of the new age began to be seen.

-NT Wright

1. Read Luke 18:1-14. How are the two parables similar and different?
2. Though some translations use the word justify or justice in verses 3,5,8, and 14, it could also be translated as “vindicate” or “vindication”. What is meant by this in the context of each of the two parables? How does the picture of the unjust judge in the first parable help us understand what God is actually like instead (v.1-8)?
3. How does the second parable, though describing a religious occasion, actually bear the similarities of another lawsuit (v.9-14)? How is the conclusion of this parable, that they tax collector went home vindicated, such a great comfort?
4. Read Luke 18:15-30. Contrast the little children in verses 15-17 with the rich ruler in verse 18-25. How do children perfectly demonstrate the humble trust that Jesus has been speaking of? What makes the rich ruler respond with sadness?
5. Read Luke 18:31-43. Compare and contrast the disciples in verses 31-34 with the blind man in verses 35-43. Once again (v.42) Jesus tells someone that their faith has been the means of their rescue. How does this episode show that faith is not just an inner feeling but also an outward action?

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ In what ways do you find yourself fearing the unknown and the difficult things that you are facing, and also humble trusting Jesus’ power in your life?
- ☀ Sit in silence and allow God to speak to you. He may wish to point out places in your life which need the power of the Spirit which is accessible to you through Christ’s resurrection, or he may gently point out the places which do not reflect humility and faith.

[1] And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. [2] He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. [3] And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' [4] For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, [5] yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" [6] And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. [7] And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? [8] I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

[9] He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: [10] "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' [13] But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14] I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

[15] Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. [16] But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. [17] Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

[18] And a ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" [19] And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. [20] You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" [21] And he said, "All these I have kept from my youth." [22] When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." [23] But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. [24] Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! [25] For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." [26] Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" [27] But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." [28] And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." [29] And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, [30] who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

[31] And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. [32] For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. [33] And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise." [34] But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

[35] As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. [36] And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. [37] They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." [38] And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" [39] And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [40] And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, [41] "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." [42] And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." [43] And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.