

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 37

Lesson 37 – Instructions about Prayer and Eternal Life

Background:

The last week in Jerusalem is fast approaching. In the previous lesson, we learned about the resurrection of Lazarus. In this lesson we learn some important truths about prayer and eternal life.

Scripture Passage:

Read: [Luke 18:1-34](#)

Read the Following Quote:

“When praying men see no sign of the answer they long for, it is easy for the to be discouraged. But they must pray on and not lose heart.” [Leon Morris](#)

Questions:

Do you ever lose heart when you are praying? Why? How can we trust God to hear and answer our prayers?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Luke 18:1-8](#)

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

1. Why did Jesus teach the disciples this parable? Who are the two main characters in the parable?

2. Describe the character of the judge. What was the woman’s status? Why was she approaching the judge? Do you think that the world is more or less just than it was in Jesus’ day? (Verses 1-3)

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3. What does the judge finally decide to do and why? Have you ever experienced anything like this? (Verses 4-5)

4. How does Jesus explain the parable to the disciples? Do you think that God is aware of the injustice in the world in the present day? Will He do anything about it? How can we be sure?

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector [Luke 18:9-14](#)

5. Describe the Pharisee's prayer. Describe the tax collector's prayer. Which prayer sounds better? Who do you think you are most like when you pray?

6. What is the important lesson Jesus wants us to learn from this parable? (Verse 14)

7. Is it more important to be humble or to be proud? Is it ever ok to boast about our accomplishments?

Little Children and Jesus [Luke 18:15-17](#)

8. What were people doing with their children and how did the disciples respond? How do people usually see children?

9. What attitude does Jesus have about children? Why do you think that He says that the "kingdom of God belongs to such as these"? What do you think Jesus means when He says we must receive the kingdom of God like little children? Who will not enter the kingdom?

The Rich and the Kingdom of God [Luke 18:18-30](#)

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10. What is the question the ruler had? Is this an unusual question? Have you found the answer to this question?

11. Does Jesus answer the man's question? Why do you think Jesus responds the way that He does?

12. How does the man respond? Is it enough to keep the commandments? What does Jesus say the man should do? How does the man feel about this? (Verses 21-23)

13. Why does Jesus talk about camels and needles? What does He mean? How then, can rich people enter the kingdom of God? What is the difference between rich people and the little children we read about in the previous section?

14. What statement does Peter make? How does Jesus respond to Peter? If this is true, is it more important to follow Jesus or to be rich? How can we follow Jesus today?

Jesus Predicts His Death

15. What does Jesus predict for the third time? Why do you think that the disciples did not understand this?

Suggested Prayer:

Heavenly father we admit that we sometimes are so focused on our accomplishments and our wealth that we forget that simple child like faith is more important to you. Help us to be humble, generous with our possessions, persistent in prayer and faithful to you. We ask this in Jesus' name.

For Further Reading:

[The Rich and the Kingdom of God](#)

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