

For the Family

Read together or tell the story of the Judge and the Widow from Luke 18:1-8.

Explain how the judge in this story didn't care what God or people thought about him. He was a bad man who only thought about himself.

The widow didn't have anyone to speak for her or help her. When she went before the bad judge, he didn't help her at all. So she did the only thing she could. She kept coming to him until she wore him out.

The bad judge decided to give her justice just to get rid of her. Even though he didn't care about her, he wanted to be done dealing with her.

Jesus says that even a bad judge will give justice if you keep asking him for it. Imagine what a good judge would do. Imagine what God would do.

God will give his people justice. But sometimes we have to wait for it.

Think about a time when you had to wait for something, but in the end it was worth it. Share that story with your family.

Sometimes we have to wait for God, but it is always worth it. Jesus tells us to never give up, to keep praying and never lose heart.

Read Isaiah 40:30-31:

Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Pray together that you will always be faithful to God, even when you have to wait for something from him.



The Journey of Discipleship – Luke 9-19

When Quickness Tarries

Luke 18:1-14

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-17:37

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus warns against hypocrisy and legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns against judging others who experience tragedy.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.
- Jesus tells a story encouraging his disciples to invest in people, in preparation for the coming age.
- Jesus contrasts the rich man and Lazarus
- Jesus challenges his disciples about temptation and forgiveness.
- A Samaritan leper is healed and thanks Jesus.
- Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God

Read Luke 18:1-14

The Judge and the Widow 1-8

Why did Jesus tell them this parable? 1

What do we learn about the judge in this story? 2

What do we learn about the widow? 3

Why did the judge finally decide to give the widow justice? 4-5

In what ways are the judge and God similar?

In what ways are they different?

Put the teaching of this parable in your own words.

Read 2 Peter 3:9-10–The Day of the Lord

Why is God patient to fulfill his promise?

What will that day be like?

Read Titus 2:11-14

How are we to live, as we “wait for our blessed hope”?

What role would prayer play as we live out that type of life?

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector 9-14

To whom is this parable addressed? 9

What do you think about the Pharisee in this story? 11-12

Why did he act the way he did?

What do you think about the tax collector? 13

Why did he act the way he did?

Read Hebrews 2:17

The tax collector cried out, “Be merciful ...” This verb is used only here and in Hebrews 2:17, where it is translated “to make propitiation.” The noun form of that word is found in 1 John 2:2: “He (Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins ...”

Propitiation means: “an atoning sacrifice.” The tax collector has gone to the temple to ask that an atoning sacrifice be made on his behalf. Compare this to what the Pharisee was doing.

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What is Jesus’ conclusion?

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What does “justified” mean in this context?

Why was one of them justified but not the other?

What does Jesus mean when he says that “the one who humbles himself will be exalted”?

Reflect

How is self-righteousness dangerous?

When have you been like the Pharisee?

When have you been like the tax collector?

Will the Son of Man find faith on earth? 8

Read Matthew 24:12-13

Because his coming may seem delayed, and because we live in a difficult world, our faith may decrease, and our love grow cold. How do these two parables speak to this?

The Judge and the Widow:

The Pharisee and the tax collector:

Read Psalm 51 – David’s Song of Repentance

Vss. 1-2 – What does the psalmist base his appeal on?

Vss. 3-6 – What does he say about his sin?

Vss. 7-12 – What does he hope for?

Vss. 13-17 – How does he promise to respond?

Next Steps

- When the Son of Man comes, I want to be found faithful (18:8).
- I will be persistent in prayer and not lose heart (18:1).
- I will not exalt myself, but live a life of humility (18:14)

Memory Verse – Luke 17:33

I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

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