

Sunday, 4 June 2023

Part 5: What Jesus Taught About Prayer

Today we will study three parables that Jesus taught about prayer and what they mean to us today.

Parable #1: The unjust judge and your just Father God - Luke 18:1-8

- 1 Luke 18:1 - Do not become discouraged and stop praying.
 - 1.1 The meaning of this parable is found in verse 1, do not allow the difficulties of life cause you to give up in prayer, but continue to pray and believe (V. 8).

- 2 Luke 18:2-6 - The difference between the unjust judge and our Just God
 - 2.1 This does not mean to bother God until He finally agrees to answer. But until Christ returns continue to take your needs to God (verse 8). What this means is that the widow did not become weary, nor should we (verse 1).

- 3 Luke 18:7-8 - Your just God answers speedily.
 - 3.1 The point is, if the unjust judge granted the widow's request, how much more will God grant your request.
 - 3.2 God will answer (avenge) "*speedily.*"
 - 3.2.1 If speedily, then no need to pray day and night for long periods of time until you finally convince God to grant your request.
 - 3.3 "*cry out day and night*"
 - 3.3.1 Must be interpreted in the light of other scriptures. Matthew 6:7, Mark 11:25
 - 3.4 "*though He bears long with them*" (NKJV)
 - 3.4.1 Most English translation translate this as, NASB: "*will He delay long over them,*" NLT: "*will He keep putting them off?*"

- 4 Understand how the context affects the meaning of this parable.
 - 4.1 The verses before this parable (Luke 17:20-37) and the last verse of the parable (Luke 18:8) are speaking of the return of Jesus and the second half of the tribulation (Luke 17:20, Matt. 24:27-28). The church today will not be on the earth at that time. The Christians who will be on the earth during the 7 years of tribulation are those saved after the rapture. So, this verse does not directly apply to us. Although, we can apply the principles to our prayer life.

Parables # 2 & 3: Ask, Seek, Knock

- 5 God will answer your prayers - Luke 11:5-13
 - 5.1 These parables are to reveal to you that you can be confident God will answer your prayers.
 - 5.2 Verses 5-8 are connected to verses 9-13. The beginning of verse 9 begins with "*So I say to you,*" which means in order to understand verses 5-8 we must understand verses 9-13.
 - 5.3 Jesus uses three common phrases to emphasize you can receive answers to your prayers: ask, seek and knock.

5.4 Verses 11-12 Jesus makes a contrast between a natural father to your Father God.

5.5 Verse 13: The promise of this parable

5.5.1 How much more will your heavenly father answer your prayers.

Conclusion:

What we learn from these parables are:

- 1 Persistence in this parable does not mean to continue to bother God until He finally agrees to answer your prayer. But until Christ returns continue to take your needs to God.
- 2 If the unjust judge, who was evil and didn't care about the widow granted her request, how much more will our just God grant your request.
- 3 V. 7: God will speedily answer your prayer. He will not put you off like the unjust judge did the widow.
- 4 Continue to take your needs to God in prayer and faith.
- 5 When you ask, seek, and knock you will receive, find, and the door will be open for you.
- 6 God gives you good things when you ask.

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the meaning of the parable of the Just God?
2. According to the parable of the just God, what does it mean to be persistent in prayer?
3. What is the promise of the parable Ask, Seek, and Knock?