

## Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 18

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 18 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

### **Luke 18:1-8**

Why did Jesus tell his disciples this parable (v. 1)?

Can you think of a time in Luke when one or more of the disciples might be tempted to stop praying and give up? Who is it and why would they give up?

Why does Jesus use an unjust judge in a parable to teach us to have confidence in our God who will bring about justice for his chosen ones?

Does anyone else struggle with Jesus saying “God will see that his chosen ones get justice, and quickly”? When life isn’t fair, does it seem like God brings justice quickly?

2 Peter 3:9 might be helpful here.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promises, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

So, God’s sense of timing is different from ours...why? What is God not wanting according to 2 Peter 3:9? What does he want?

### **Luke 18:9-14**

The tax collector was exalted by going home \_\_\_\_\_ before God. Hmmm...how is the word in the blank related to the word “justice”?

How many times are the words like judge, just/unjust, justice, and justified used in verses 1-14? \_\_\_\_\_

“Justified” and “justice” have the same root word in Greek just like they do in English. God, the perfectly righteous and ultimate judge, administers what is right and just. So...could you say the tax collector received justice when he left the temple “justified before God”? Is this part of what Jesus meant in v. 8?

### **Luke 18:15-30**

Luke puts these stories together on purpose. Maybe we’ll notice something different when we see them side by side...

Who were being brought to Jesus in v. 15?

Who comes to him in v. 18?

Where would you rate babies in their social hierarchy?

Where would you rate the rich ruler?

In v. 17, how does Jesus say a person must enter the kingdom of God?

Does the rich ruler seem to be willing to enter that way?

What does a baby most like to look at? Have you noticed what they focus on most when they are tiny? Do they learn from what they focus on?

What do you think the rich ruler focuses on?

Which of the 10 commandments does Jesus leave out in v. 20?

Why do you think he left them out?

What do followers of Jesus have to leave to follow him?

Wouldn't you think that if you left everything, you'd have nothing? But the kingdom of God doesn't work that way. When Jesus starts with, "Truly I tell you..." he's about to blow his hearers' minds. He knows that some of his followers will have to walk away from close relationships in order to live as someone who genuinely trusts God to be God. What startling thing does he promise them?

### **Luke 18:31-43**

Again, let's see what happens when we look at these sections together.

Why does Jesus remind the disciples that they are going to Jerusalem?

What do you notice that is different about this last prediction than the two in 9:21-27 and 44-45?

Here's that theme again:...and those who humble themselves will be exalted. What does Jesus say will happen to him that shows how low he is willing to become?

Look at 8:9-10. That described the crowds. Does it describe the disciples now?

Why do you think they don't understand?

Who does the crowd tell the blind man is passing by? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the blind man call Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would he call Jesus this instead of repeating what the crowd said?

Does anything about the blind man impress you?

Why do you think Luke puts the story of the disciples not understanding right before the one of the blind man who won't let anyone stop him from calling out to the Son of David?

Does the blind man remind you of a parable in this chapter?