

## Luke 18:1-17 | Will He Find Faith?

### I. Intro

- A. Story of motorcycle ride in college.
- B. Now, this leads in to our time in God's Word today. We will pick up in Luke 18, following Jesus and His disciples on his journey to Jerusalem.
- C. Remember - Luke is the story of Jesus is the fulfillment of all of God's promises to the whole world. So, we find our selves following Jesus' journey to His death and ultimate resurrection. We are continuing listening to all of Jesus' teachings as he is on his way to Jerusalem.
- D. Last week we looked at the end of Luke 17 and saw Jesus kingdom wasn't a military operation for rule - Jesus' kingdom is an operation for the worship of our hearts. Allan said, "Jesus is after your heart...[the kingdom of God] is a place where every heart gladly recognizes Jesus and King and joyfully surrenders their all to him". And the warning from the text is that Jesus is coming back. And that's either really good news for some or a terrifying reality for others.
- E. Today we are going to see - again - another glimpse into the actual heart of God for us. Over and over again we are being confronted with the utter holiness of God and the ridiculous grace and mercy of God.
- F. **Here's the question and the main point for us in the Word today: Jesus is looking for people who are looking for Him. In other words, will he find people completely dependent on him? Will he find faith?**
- G. God's heart for us in Jesus - is that we would be completely dependent on him. Three things characteristics of God's desire for us to depend on him in faith are presented to us this morning:
  - 1. Persistence.
  - 2. Humility.
  - 3. Simplicity.

### II. Luke 18:1-8

- A. READ
- B. Work through text
  - prayer is vital. view is of consistently going to God in prayer - over and over again.
  - not lose heart. the unrighteousness that we will see indicated in the judge represents the world in which we live - unrighteousness abounds - we don't have to look far.
  - characters:
    - widow - lowliness, great need in that culture, etc.
    - judge - high standing, reputation apparent, powerful, unloving man. this is a hard man, no love for others and no love for God.
- C. READ TEXT
  - widow's persistence wears down the judge. why?
  - amazing. fears being "beaten down" - literally! whether it's physically or figuratively it is no less a surprise.
  - **Would God find a faith in you that is characterized by persistence? Enduring in the difficulties of this life but enduring in the midst of life's trials constantly begging God to come back but also relieve the pain and suffering in the here and now?**
- D. Highlight persistence as it relates to our hearts towards God in dependence.
  - Jesus is asking a very important question - one in which we find ourselves today faced with : Are you looking for Jesus?
  - Faith is what Jesus says he's after as he's talking to his disciples...persistence in prayer begets persistence in a faith aimed at the person of Jesus Christ. He is the end not the means.

### III. Luke 18:9-14

- A. READ
- B. work through text
- C. Highlight how humility as characteristic of a heart that is dependent on God.
  - misdirected confidence in one's self
  - one's own merits are what is acceptable to God.
  - fasting twice above what OT law require - need was on the day of atonement + tithing he went above what was "required" and this he based his confidence.
  - Jesus is saying the position of our heart - the posture of our heart is the critical component. All else springs from the heart - which means good things we do can come from bad places.
  - basis for JEsus' acceptance of us is a faith that is marked by humility.
  - **Is your faith in God marked by humility or comparison?**

### IV. Luke 18:15-17

- A. READ
- B. work through text
- C. Highlight how simplicity is a characteristic of heart that is dependent on God.
- D. Two things this shows: 1) Children are loved deeply by Jesus. 2) The disciples are called to see how they should come to Jesus in the way of a child.
- E. **Is your faith characterized by simplicity or complexity towards God?**
  - Jesus is coming back and the question He's asking is "Will I Find Faith?. Will I find people looking for me, completely dependent on me..."

### V. Closing

- A. Are we dependent on God?
- B. Where are you today?
- C. Time of reflection.
  - 1. Jesus gives three characteristics for us to evaluate our own hearts in relation to dependence on him:
    - Persistence
    - Humility
    - Simplicity
- D. Confession / Assurance / Encouragement
- E. Close in prayer.