BIBLE DISCOVERY

Get more out of the message



LUKE: Cost of Discipleship

Luke 18:1-8

We're diving back into the Gospel of Luke. After nine chapters introducing us to Jesus and His call, Luke now takes us with Him on the road to Jerusalem (Luke 9-19). Along the way, we'll hear some of Jesus' most famous teachings and stories, as He shows us what it truly costs to follow Him and why following Him is worth everything.

WATCH: YouTube or Website

The Big Idea

(What is the author's point?)

"You ought to always pray and not lose heart."

Why It Matters

(Why is this relevant to us?)

A football team of tired, sweaty high school boys took a knee in the grass around their coach. As they panted to catch their breath, he said, "Great practice, guys! We have just two days until we play Oakfield. They're tough. They're bigger than we are, but if we focus on our fundamentals we can beat them!"

Like a good coach preparing his team for the game of their life, Jesus is preparing His disciples for the "time the Kingdom of God would come" (Luke 17:20). This would be a time of great strain and they would be outmatched in many ways, but in chapter 18, Jesus clarifies four fundamental skills for life in the final age; **Persistence** (18:1-8), **Humility** (18:9-14), **Childlikeness** (18:15-17) and **Devotedness** (18:18-29).

The parable of the persistent widow (18:1-8) teaches us the essential skill of relentless prayer. In this short story, Jesus holds up the image of a woman who refuses to give into cynicism, passivity or discouragement and says in order to succeed in the coming days, you need to pray like *this*!

Good to Know

(What are some helpful insights into this passage?)

Judge (18:2)

Don't picture someone wearing a black robe in a courtroom. The Judicial system was founded by Moses in Exodus 18 to appoint leaders within family clans who would provide counsel and protection for their communities. Judges (or chieftans) were supposed to act as God's representatives, but were often so corrupt they were sarcastically called "robber judges" like how you or I might call someone a "crooked cop."

Widow (18:3)
In a day before welfare systems or life insurance, a woman whose husband died was extremely vulnerable. This is why God called His people to make every effort to care for these women (Deut. 24:17).

Adversary (18:3)
This was probably a creditor trying to take her home—which had belonged to her deceased husband. Without a home, she would be destitute.

"Keeps bothering me" (18:5)
In Greek, this literally means "she keeps punching me in the eye." Talk about persistence!

The point of the parable is not that God gives every person who prays over and over what they want, nor is it that He's reluctant to answer prayer, so we'd better gear up for a long wait. He wants to train us to be as relentless and persistent in prayer as He is.



THIS WEEK'S
Bible Discovery Author
Pastor Ryan Morrison

Group Guide

Following the series with your group?

- Start with some **icebreaker questions**.
- Read the passage together before you dive in.
- Share any insights from the message. Use the questions below to get your conversation started.

Conversation Starters

1. What stands out to you in this story? What do you find interesting, confusing, encouraging or challenging?

2. Jesus tells this parable so His disciples will “always pray and not lose heart.” What are some things that cause people to “lose heart” spiritually?

3. Jesus contrasts the corrupt judge with a God who cares deeply about justice and goodness. How does what we believe about God affect how persistently we pray?

4. Where are you tempted to give up right now? Is there a situation, relationship, person, injustice or spiritual struggle you’ve stopped praying about?

5. What new rhythm or practice of prayer is the Lord inviting you to this fall?

Prayer

Jesus, thank you that you are faithfully, passionately and persistently bringing your Kingdom into our world. Thank you for the gift of prayer, where we can participate and catalyze the renewal of all things in your name. We pray that you would stir us up to renewed hope. Encourage us where we are discouraged. Help us pray with intention and consistency over the coming weeks. Amen.

Looking for more prayer opportunities?
Click **here** to be notified about ongoing DCC prayer needs.
Click **here** to send in a prayer request.