### Luke

## Chapter 18

1Then he gave them an illustration to show them why they should keep praying and never give up.  
  
2He said:  
  
 ‘There was a judge in a city who didn’t fear God  
 And couldn’t be shamed by other men.  
 3But a widow in that city kept coming and saying:  
  
 ‘I want justice from the man whom I [sued].’  
  
 4‘Well at first, [the judge] did nothing at all,  
 But then he started to reason:  
  
 ‘Although I don’t fear God,  
 And there aren’t men who can shame me...  
 5Since this widow keeps coming and making more work,  
 I’ll see that she receives justice  
 So she doesn’t just nag me to death!’  
  
6Then the Lord asked:  
  
 ‘Now, did you hear what this unrighteous judge said?  
  
 7‘So won’t God, who is patient,  
 Also give justice to His chosen ones  
 That call out to Him day and night?  
 8Yes, I tell you...  
 He’ll bring speedy justice for you!  
  
 ‘Yet, when the Son of Man arrives, will he really find the faith on earth?’  
  
  
9Then he gave this illustration to some there that were putting more trust in themselves and thinking that they were righteous, while everyone else was just nothing.  
  
He said:  
  
 10‘Two men went up to the Temple to pray…  
 A tax collector and a Pharisee.  
  
 11‘Now, the Pharisee stood up and said this  
 Concerning himself in his prayer:  
  
 ‘I thank You O God, that I’m not like the rest,  
 Who are robbers, the unrighteous, and adulterers…  
 Or like that tax collector [over there].  
 12For I fast two times every week,  
 And contribute 1/10th of all I receive.’  
  
 13‘Yet the tax collector, who stood at some distance,  
 Wouldn’t raise his eyes towards the sky.  
 He just beat on himself as he said:  
  
 ‘O God,  
  
 ‘Please don’t be angry with this sinner!’  
  
 14‘Well, I tell you that this man went back home more righteous than the other, because the self-promoters will be humbled, while the humble will be promoted.’  
  
  
15Thereafter, people started bringing their young children for [Jesus] to have him just touch them. However, when the disciples saw this, they started scolding them.  
  
16Then Jesus called [the disciples] to him and said:  
  
 ‘Let the young children come to me… Don’t try to stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to people like this.  
  
 17‘I tell you the truth; those who don’t welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child, won’t enter it at all.’  
  
18Then a certain ruler asked him:  
  
 ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit age-long life?’  
  
19But Jesus asked him:  
  
 ‘Why are you calling me good? Nobody’s good except One… The God!  
  
 20‘You know the Commandments... Don’t commit adultery, don’t murder, don’t steal, don’t provide false testimony, honor your father and mother… ’  
  
21Then [the ruler] replied:  
  
 ‘Well, I’ve guarded all these [things] since my youth!’  
  
22And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘But there’s still one thing that you’re lacking… Go and sell all that you have, then give to the poor, and come be my follower. That’s when you’ll have treasures in the heavens!’  
  
23Well when he heard this, [the ruler] became very sad, because he was extremely rich.  
  
24So Jesus looked at him and said:  
  
 ‘It’ll be very difficult for those who are rich  
 To find their way into the Kingdom!  
 25It’s easier to thread a rope through a needle  
 Than for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!’  
  
26Well at that, those who heard him say this, asked:  
  
 ‘Then, who can possibly be saved?’  
  
27And he replied:  
  
 ‘Things that are impossible for men are still possible with God.’  
  
28But Peter said:  
  
 ‘Look, we’ve left everything to follow you!’  
  
29And [Jesus] said to him:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth;  
 There’s no one who loses a house or a wife,  
 Or brothers, parents, or children  
 For the sake of the Kingdom of God,  
 30Who won’t receive much more in this age,  
 And life in the age that’s coming.’  
  
31Then he took the 12 aside and said this to them:  
  
 ‘Look! We’re on our way up to JeruSalem, where everything that the Prophets wrote about the Son of Man is now going to be fulfilled. 32He’ll be handed over to the gentiles and made fun of; he’ll be treated shamefully and spat on; 33and then after flaying him with a whip, they’ll kill him…  
  
 ‘But on the third day, he’ll stand again.’  
  
34However, they just didn’t grasp the meaning of any of these things, because what he said was hidden from them and they couldn’t understand it.  
  
  
  
35Well later, as he was approaching JeriCho, there happened to be a blind man who was sitting alongside the road begging. 36Then as he heard the crowd moving past, he asked what was happening, 37and he was told:  
  
 ‘Jesus the Nazarene is coming!’  
  
38So he started shouting:  
  
 ‘Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!’  
  
39Well, those who were walking in front [of Jesus] told him to be quiet. However, he shouted even louder:  
  
 ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’  
  
40So Jesus stopped and gave orders to have him brought over. And when [the blind man] got to him, [Jesus] asked:  
  
 41‘What is it that you want me to do for you?’  
  
And he answered:  
  
 ‘Lord, let me see again!’  
  
42So Jesus said:  
  
 ‘Then, see again… For your faith has saved you!’  
  
43And instantly, his sight returned! Then he started following [Jesus], glorifying God, and the people were also praising God after they saw this.