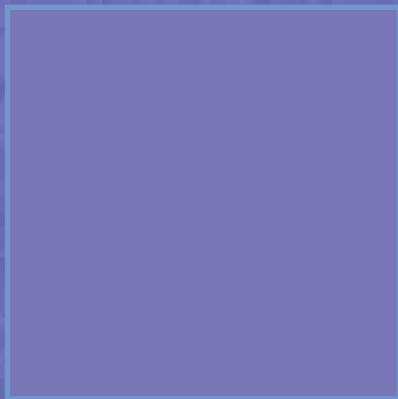


C H A P T E R



1. There is so much to glean from Luke 18. Please, read the chapter at least twice before starting to answer the questions. Pray asking the Father to open your eyes to see and your ears to hear.
2. Title the sections of this chapter in your own words. Try to do it in just a few words.

Luke 18:1-8	
Luke 18: 9-14	
Luke 18:15-17	
Luke 18:18-30	
Luke 18:31-34	
Luke 18:35-43	

3. Luke clearly states Jesus's purpose for telling this parable in Luke 18:1-8. What was his purpose?
4. There are two characters mentioned in this parable: the judge and the widow. What word would you use to describe the character of these two people?
 - a.
 - b.
5. Even though the judge cared nothing about the widow's plight, he did what she requested. Why? What did he realize about this woman and her need?
6. Jesus tells us to pay attention to the fact this judge would find it beneficial to help with the widow's need. Read 1 Peter 5:7, unlike this judge, what does God's word instruct us to do? Why?
7. What anxiety is burdening you today? What need or request would you like to bring to your heavenly Father?
8. Is your request something you have prayed about before? How do you feel about coming to him with this same need again?
9. Let's take a few minutes and look up a few verses on prayer. Briefly state what you glean concerning prayer.

Matthew 5:44	
Matthew 26:41	
Mark 1:35	
Mark 11:24-25	
Luke 6:12	
Acts 16:25	
Ephesians 6:18	
Philippians 1:9	
Colossians 1:9	
Colossians 4:3	
1 Thessalonians 5:17	
1 Timothy 2:8	
James 5:13-16	

10. After looking up the verses in the previous question, how would you define prayer?

11. As Jesus closes the parable of the judge and the persistent widow, it almost feels as if he shifts gears. In Luke 18: 8, Jesus asks the question, "...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
Last week we spent a great deal of our time looking at faith. The word "faith," mentioned in Luke 18:8 is the Greek word Pistis, meaning conviction of truth, belief in divine, generally includes trust and holy fervor.
Why do you believe Jesus taught the importance of persistent prayer and closed talking about finding faith?

Read Hebrews 11:6 to help with your answer.
12. The next parable in Luke 18 gives us an example of how not to pray and then it gives us an example of how to pray.
Look at the two men mentioned in this parable. What character quality do you see?
a. Pharisee -
b. Tax collector -
13. Do you believe the Pharisee thought he had a good understanding of sin?
14. How did he describe sinners?
15. When he said "...even like this tax collector" what do you believe he meant?
What do you know about the tax collectors of Jesus day?
16. Read Psalms 51:17 and Micah 6:8
What quality does God long to see in us?
17. What did the tax collector base his whole prayer on, the character of God or his works?
18. Both men offered a prayer to God in the temple that day. What was the result for each?
19. The text says the tax collector went home justified before God. Define "justified."
20. According to Luke 18:15, many were bringing their children to Jesus on that day. We have seen many reasons why people assist others coming to Jesus. Some for a physical healing. Some for spiritual deliverance. What reason was given as to why these children were brought to Jesus?
21. While studying this section of scripture I am reminded of a quote from Frederick Douglas, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men." Take a minute to think about your own children or the spiritual children you are leading to Christ.
Why do you want to bring them to Jesus?
What are you wanting Jesus to do?
22. What did the disciples think of this use of Jesus time?
23. Did Jesus agree with the disciple's actions?
24. What is it about children Jesus wanted those present to understand?

25. The next encounter, mentioned in Luke 18, tells of a certain ruler stepping forward, from the crowd, to ask Jesus a question. The diversity of Jesus crowd never ceases to amaze me. How did this ruler address Jesus?
- Does the way he addresses Jesus imply he “thinks” he is ready to learn?
What is his question?
26. Notice, Jesus does not address the man’s question. Instead, he reasons with the man first. There is only one who can rightfully be called good. Who does Jesus declare as good?
27. Where did Jesus direct the man’s attention?
28. Do you think this man was happy to hear Jesus’s list?
29. Can you imagine what was going on in the man’s heart, right up until the point when Jesus said, **“You still lack one thing.”**
Do you think he might have gotten excited?
Do you think his mind started to race thinking, “Whatever it is I’m ready?”
30. It is amazing how quickly a mood can change. Jesus gave the man his assignment, but it clearly was not what he wanted to hear.
What was his assignment?
31. Why was this such a difficult assignment for the man?
What does this reveal about the man?
32. Jesus pointed out that it is difficult for someone with great riches to enter the kingdom of God. Why would riches cause difficulty for them? Read Proverbs 3:5-6 before answering.
33. Read Proverbs 11:28; 18:11; and 23:4-5, in a few words, what do you learn about riches.
Proverbs 11:28
Proverbs 18:11
Proverbs 23:4-5
Riches are merely a life preserver of sorts. They are a temporary fix to an ongoing problem.
- “God just doesn’t throw a life preserver to a drowning person. He goes to the bottom of the sea, and pulls a corpse from the bottom of the sea, takes him up on the bank, breathes into him the breath of life and makes him alive.”— R.C. Sproul*
34. We tend to think riches make one fulfilled and secure. What habit might the rich fall into?
35. Jesus extended an invitation to this man, much like he had to Peter.
Read Luke 5:9-11
How different were the two responses to Jesus’s invitation to follow him?

36. Following Jesus does come with a high price. Things of great value are not cheap. Think of something costly you spent money on, your car, your home, your education. These all can be very expensive, but they are also of great value.
What did Jesus tell them about the cost of following?
What did he say about the benefit of following?

37. Jesus did not want his twelve closest followers to be caught off guard. Several times, he spoke to them of the coming events. Look up the verses below and briefly state what they were told would happen.

Luke 9:22	
Luke 9:44-45	
Luke 17:25	
Luke 18:31-33	

38. Fill in the verses below
Luke 9:45 But they _____ understand what this meant. It was _____ from them, so that they _____ grasp it, and they were _____ to ask him about it.

Luke 18:34 The disciples _____ understand any of this. Its meaning was _____ from them, and they _____ what he was talking about.

Jesus gave them many details of the future events, did they understand?

What was the response of his disciples to Jesus words of warning?

39. In Luke 18:32, Jesus told his twelve closest followers he would be delivered over to the Gentiles. Who were the Gentiles Jesus would be delivered over to?

Read Matthew 27:1-2

40. Even though we might want to, let's not rush past the prediction of Luke 18:32. Define the words below.

- a. Mock
- b. Insult
- c. Spit
- d. Flog
- e. Kill

41. Even though Jesus had just told them of all the terrible things awaiting him, what good news did he also give them?
42. Which part of Jesus's words (verse 32) do you believe the disciples focused on? Do you believe they pictured Jesus's ministry going the way he is telling them?
43. Jesus is approaching Jericho. Who happens to be seated near the road on that day?
44. As was so often the case, there was a crowd following Jesus. The blind man heard the crowd and asked someone what was happening? He was told, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Do you think he had heard the stories of Jesus's ministry?

45. This is a divine appointment. If I were this blind man, I would have hoped to one day encounter Jesus.
What did he do when he heard it was Jesus coming?
46. For some reason, those who were near began to rebuke the man to stop yelling. The more they tried to quiet the man, the louder he became. Jesus focused his attention on the man and asked what seems like a very strange question.
What did he ask the man?
Why do you believe Jesus would look at a blind man and ask such a question?
47. How long do you think it had been that this blind man wished he could see?
What is the difference between wishing and praying?
Have you ever wished your situation would change?
Have you wished you'd get a new job, meet the man of your dreams, have a baby and start a family, or the disease you are struggling with would be gone?
Are you wishing for it or praying specifically about it?
Are you praying and believing?
48. Jesus did heal the blind man.
What did he say was the key to his healing?

This is the Greek word "Pistis" which means, conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the New Testament of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervor born of faith and joined with it.
49. Who was affected by this healing?
Read Luke 18:43.
a.
b.
50. What was the response to the healing of this blind man?
51. When those around you experience a miraculous answer to prayer, what is your response?
52. Think for a few minutes about the character of our God.
What do you know about Him that would cause you to pray and specifically expecting him to answer?
53. What happens within our heart when we move from wishing, to specific prayers about a matter?
54. When we pray specifically, our focus begins to shift from the problem to our great God. Our relationship with God grows as we learn to trust and lean on Him. Faith is growing in our heart.
Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4
What caused the apostle Paul to rejoice?

55. After all we have seen in this chapter concerning prayer, why not take a few minutes to talk to God about the things on your heart. What would you like to talk to your loving heavenly Father about today?

I just stopped and prayed for a friend God brought to my mind. She has been the care giver for her husband who has dementia. This is not how they pictured their retirement years. My prayer is that God's presence would be felt in their home and that God would equip her and strengthen her for the tasks she faces each day. Thank you, Father, that you not only hear but you answer our prayers.

Biblical References

Day One

Question 6

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Question 9

Matthew 5:44 (NIV) But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Matthew 26: 41 (NIV) *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

Mark 1:35 (NIV) Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 11:24-25 (NIV) *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”*

Luke 6:12 (NIV) One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Acts 16:25 (NIV) About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Philippians 1:9 (NIV) And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

Colossians 1:9 (NIV) For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

Colossians 4:3 (NIV) And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NIV) pray continually,

1 Timothy 2:8 (NIV) Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.

James 5:13-16 (NIV) Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Day Two

Question 11

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Question 16

Psalms 51:17 (TPT) { The Passion Translation} The fountain of your pleasure is found in the sacrifice of my shattered heart before you. You will not despise my tenderness as I bow down humbly at your feet.

Micah 6:8 (ESV) He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Day Three

Question 32

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Question 33

Proverbs 11:28 (ESV) Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

Proverbs 18:11-12 (MSG) The rich think their wealth protects them; they imagine themselves safe behind it. ¹² Pride first, then the crash, but humility is precursor to honor.

Proverbs 23:4-5 (NIV) Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. ⁵ Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Question 35

Luke 5:9-11 (NIV) For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed him.

Day Four

Question 37

Luke 9:22 (NIV) And he said, *"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."*

Luke 9:44-45 (NIV) *"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men."* ⁴⁵ But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

Luke 17:25 (NIV) *But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.*

Luke 18:31-34 (NIV) Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, *"We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³² He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; ³³ they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."* ³⁴ The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

Question 39

Matthew 27:1-2 (NIV) Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. ² So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

Day Five

Question 54

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 (ESV) We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ⁴ Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.