

Keep Praying, Keep Trusting, Stay Humble, Follow Jesus

The Parable of the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1–8)

Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and never lose heart. (Luke 18:1 NKJV)

He described a judge in a certain city who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow kept coming to him, pleading, *"Give me justice against my adversary!"* For a while he refused, but eventually he said to himself, *"Even though I don't fear God or respect people, this widow keeps bothering me. I'll give her justice so she won't wear me out with her persistence."* (Luke 18:2–5)

Then Jesus made His point:

"Hear what the unjust judge said. And shall not God avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily." (Luke 18:6–8 NKJV)

Reflection:

Jesus wasn't comparing God to the unjust judge—He was contrasting them. If even a corrupt judge responds eventually, how much more will your loving Father act for you? He is not reluctant. He cares deeply and will act swiftly according to His perfect timing.

Personal Application:

When trouble weighs heavy, don't faint—pray. Prayer isn't about twisting God's arm to act; it's about opening the door for Him to work according to His will. Trust His timing. Trust His wisdom. And don't limit His answer by your narrow expectations.

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9–14)

Jesus told another parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others.

Two men went up to the temple to pray—one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed proudly, "God, I thank You that I'm not like other people—extortioners, unjust, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give tithes of all I possess." (Luke 18:11–12)

But the tax collector, standing far off, wouldn't even lift his eyes to heaven. He beat his chest and prayed, *"God, be merciful to me a sinner!"* (Luke 18:13)

Jesus said, *"I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."* (Luke 18:14 NKJV)

Reflection:

Self-righteousness blinds us. It makes us feel better by comparing ourselves to others instead of standing before God's pure standard. True righteousness comes only from God's mercy.

Personal Application:

Whenever you approach God, don't come boasting about your achievements. Come broken, come

humble, come thankful for mercy. The one who humbles himself before God is the one who will walk away justified and lifted up.

Jesus Blesses the Little Children (Luke 18:15–17)

People were bringing even infants to Jesus so that He might touch them. When the disciples tried to push them away, Jesus corrected them:

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16 NKJV)

Then He added, *"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."* (Luke 18:17 NKJV)

Reflection:

Children are open, trusting, and dependent—qualities God desires in those who belong to His kingdom. When an adult gives their life to Jesus, a life is saved. When a child gives their life to Jesus, an entire life is saved.

Personal Application:

Come to Jesus with the trust of a child. Don't overcomplicate faith. Don't let pride, logic, or self-sufficiency keep you from simply believing and resting in His love.

The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18–27)

A wealthy young ruler asked Jesus, *"Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"*

Jesus responded, *"Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God."* (Luke 18:19 NKJV) —not denying His divinity but prompting the young man to realize who he was speaking to.

Jesus then recited the commandments related to human relationships: don't commit adultery, don't murder, don't steal, don't bear false witness, honor your father and mother.

The ruler claimed he had kept all these since youth.

Jesus said, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." (Luke 18:22 NKJV)

When the man heard this, he became very sad, for he was very rich.

Seeing this, Jesus said, *"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."* (Luke 18:24–25 NKJV)

Those listening asked, *"Who then can be saved?"*

Jesus answered, *"The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."* (Luke 18:27 NKJV)

Reflection:

Jesus wasn't condemning wealth itself but pointing out how easily possessions can become an idol, taking God's place at the center of our lives.

Personal Application:

What is at the center of your life? Is there anything you love or trust more than Christ? He calls us to surrender everything that keeps us from following Him completely. Eternal life is not earned—it's received through surrender and faith.

Rewards for Sacrifice (Luke 18:28–30)

Peter said, *"See, we have left all and followed You."* (Luke 18:28 NKJV)

Jesus answered, *"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."* (Luke 18:29–30 NKJV)

Reflection:

Sacrifices made for Christ are never wasted. He rewards both now—with spiritual family, provision, and joy—and in eternity, with everlasting life.

Personal Application:

Whatever you surrender for Jesus' sake will be repaid many times over. Trust Him with your sacrifices. He sees, He knows, and He honors faithful obedience.

Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection (Luke 18:31–34)

Jesus pulled His disciples aside and told them plainly that He was going to Jerusalem where everything written about Him by the prophets would be fulfilled:

- He would be handed over to the Gentiles
- Mocked
- Insulted
- Spat upon
- Scourged
- Killed
- But on the third day He would rise again (Luke 18:31–33).

Yet the disciples did not understand what He meant.

God's plan was unfolding exactly as prophesied, but they were blinded by their own expectations.

Reflection:

Sometimes we miss what God is doing because it doesn't fit our expectations.

Personal Application:

Stay close to Jesus, even when you don't fully understand His ways. His plan is perfect, even when it's hidden from our sight.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar (Luke 18:35–43)

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd passing by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

The man cried out, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*" (Luke 18:38 NKJV)

People tried to hush him, but he cried out all the louder.

Jesus stopped, called for him, and asked, "*What do you want Me to do for you?*"

He answered, "*Lord, that I may receive my sight.*"

Jesus said, "*Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.*" (Luke 18:41–42 NKJV)

Immediately the man received his sight, followed Jesus, and glorified God. Everyone who saw it gave praise to God.

Reflection:

Desperate faith grabs hold of Jesus and won't let go. He honors those who call out to Him with believing hearts.

Personal Application:

When you cry out to Jesus, don't be silenced by discouragement or the voices around you. He hears your desperate cry. He still answers in mercy and power.

Summary Devotion:

- Keep praying.
- Stay humble.
- Trust Jesus fully.
- Follow Him wherever He leads.
- Let your life glorify God, not yourself.
- Believe that nothing is impossible with God.