

WHY WE PRAY

Pastor Dave Bechtel | Luke 18:1-8 | April 17, 2011

- I. Jesus often teaches His disciples through parables. Luke 5:16; 6:12; 11:1
 - A. He places an earthly story alongside to teach a spiritual truth. Luke 15:3-7; 16:8-9; Heb 13:8
 - B. He still teaches His followers through parables. Jonah 4:5-10; II Sam 12:1-12; Mark 11:13; Acts 26:14
- II. Our learning begins when we pay attention to the parallels. Matt 13:13-15
 - A. We study the similarities. Luke 17
 - B. We consider the contrasts. Rom 8:31-35; Eph 3:17b-19; Luke 15:20; John 16:26-27; Matt 6:7-8
 - C. We take away the big truths.
- III. Disciples must pray or they will lose heart.
 - A. Losing heart manifests in many modes. Matt 5:8; 6:21-24; Gal 6:9; II Thess 3:13; II Cor 4:1, 16; Eph 3:13; I Sam 28:20
 - B. Disciples cry out to God in faith. Ps 30:2-3

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The following is designed to help your group enter into meaningful discussion and application as you become a more fully-devoted follower of Jesus. These questions are a guide and you may not address all of them in group. Look through them ahead of time and identify questions you would like to discuss more thoroughly together. Any questions not addressed during group may be useful for personal study. Remember, our goal is to not just listen to the Word but obey it (James 1:22).

1. Read Luke 18:1-8. Answer the following review questions:
 - A. What makes this a parable? What are some reasons Jesus uses parables so often (Matt 13:10-15)?
 - B. Who are the main characters in this parable? Who do they represent?
 - C. What is the difference between the judge and our God? What wrong conclusions would we draw about God/prayer if we miss the difference?
 - D. How is our “crying out” similar to the widow’s? How is it different?
2. Pastor Dave shared how an automotive code-reader/eraser helped him understand a principle about forgiveness. He called this a “parable of life.” Share a parable of life you have experienced. Watch for them this week and be prepared to share next week.
3. In Luke 18:8, Jesus asks, “...when the Son of Man comes, will he find **faith** on earth?” If Jesus is looking for faith-filled prayers, how do we pray in faith? Read Matt 21:22, John 14:14-15, Heb 11:6, and James 5:16.

Break into gender groups to discuss the following questions:

4. If you were unsure of your ministry passion last week, share what you discovered from the “Your Ministry Passion” tool in your folder.
5. Share something you discovered in your daily Bible reading this week. (If you are not currently in a reading plan, consider using the “Reading Through Luke” tool in your folder.)
6. As Pastor Dave was sharing the parable of the automotive code-reader/ eraser, was there something that the Lord brought to your mind that you needed to “erase” (confess and/or forgive) in order to be running on all spiritual cylinders?
7. Pastor Dave listed five signs that we may be “losing heart.” Do you see any of these in your life? Pray as a group for anyone losing heart.
 - A. Not seeing well spiritually.
 - B. Growing weary of the tasks God has given us.
 - C. Losing passion for life; spiritually apathetic; life is drab, boring, hollow.
 - D. Despair, fear, hopelessness, feeling orphaned and alone.
 - E. Giving up, quitting, throwing in the towel.