

Lesson 18

Luke 18

Parables & Sight

Note: *Jesus is on the move. You can feel Jesus' urgency and determination. He tells his disciples parable after parable as they walk together toward the Holy City.*

1. What was Jesus' purpose in telling his disciples the parable of the widow and the unjust judge? (Luke 18:1)
2. How is God both like and unlike the unjust judge? (Luke 18:6-8)
3. When you study the words of the Pharisee's prayer, do you think he is really addressing God or merely talking to himself about himself? Or both? (Luke 18:11-12)
4. What do you think the text means when it says of the tax collector that he went home "justified"? (Luke 18:14; CCC 2559)
5. *Reflection:* In telling His disciples the parable about righteousness, do you think Jesus thought his disciples had begun to feel self-righteous? Why? Why not? (Hint: Luke 9:46; Luke 18:28-30)
6. Jewish mothers typically brought their children to the priests and rabbis to be blessed. Why do you think Jesus' disciples "sternly order" the mothers *not* to bring children to Jesus to be blessed? (Luke 18:15)
7. In Luke 18:15-17 and in Mark 10:13-16, Jesus is very welcoming of little children. What are the qualities or attitudes of children that Jesus was referring to when he said: "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (Luke 18:17) In what ways are you like a child?
8. How did Jesus answer the rich ruler who asked him how to inherit eternal life, and what was the man's reaction? (Luke 18:18-23)
9. Jesus makes several predictions of his passion earlier in Luke (9:22; 44; 12:50; 13:33; 17:25). Only in Luke 18:32 does Jesus mention the Gentiles. Why do you think it was difficult for the apostles to understand what awaited Jesus in Jerusalem?
10. Why did Jesus restore the sight of the blind beggar, and what did the beggar do after getting his sight back? (Luke 18:41-43)

If you want a challenge?

11. In Luke's version of the story (Luke 18:18-25), it is a rich ruler who asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. However, in Matthew 19:16-22, the rich person who asks the question is a young man. In your opinion, which version makes the story more heart-breaking?