

Study Guide to Luke 18:1-14

Note: When I have done study guides in the past, many of you have told me how useful they were to you so I am going to try to do them more often. I encourage you to get a small notebook, close to the size of your Bible to carry with you to church and to keep handy when you read and study. I know that you will find it very helpful if you are diligent to write notes on the text and answers to the various study questions in your Bible Study Notebook.

Pastor Jones

Introduction:

1. Notice the Context of these two passages. The first passage (18:1-8) is connected to the previous passage (17:20-37) and the second passage (18:9-14) is connected to what follows (18:18-30). Considering the context of the first passage and what you have heard in the last few messages, why is prayer so central to the kingdom and those in it? (For help, consider Matt. 6:10 and Luke 11:5-10.)
2. In order to understand what Jesus is saying and why he is saying it, it is important to understand who Jesus is talking to. Jesus speaks to two different groups of people in these passages. To find the first group, compare 18:1 to 17:22; to find the second, cf. 18:9 and 17:20. Be sure to write down who these groups are so you remember what Jesus is saying and to whom he is saying it.

Luke 18:1-8 – The Parable of the Persistent Widow and the Unjust Judge

3. The disciples have been told that they will not see the day spoken of in 17:22-37. Consider and write down answers to the following: (a) Why do they need the words of this parable to encourage them and (b) what do these words encourage them to be and to do (see v. 8)?
4. The justice for which the widow asks may not be retribution but simply getting her adversary to do right by her. Do believers ever need to wonder if God will answer such prayers? (See Psalm 25:2-3; Rev. 6:9-11 & 10:6-7.)
5. 18:1 and 18:8 give the main purpose for this first parable. List three things from these two verses you should do to be ready for

the return of the Lord. (Hint: there are two in 18:1 and one in 18:8.)

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

6. Jesus is probably speaking to the Pharisees in this parable. Considering this verse and the following verses: Matt. 23:5-7; Mark 7:6; Phil. 3:4-6, write down these attitudes are manifest in your church. As God to reveal to you how these attitudes are manifest in your own life.
7. This parable is connected to the following two (18:15-17 and 18:18-30) and each of these three emphasizes human inability. Read Paul's response, in Phil. 3:2-11, to the attitudes of some similar groups during his day. Paying close attention to Phil. 3:7-11, list from those verses what things are most important in relation to God. Also consider, who is responsible for these things: you or God?
8. The difference between these two men in the parable was pride versus humility. The Pharisee only mentions God at the beginning of his prayer and says "I" five times after that. The publican, however, is able only to mutter a simple prayer. This Pharisee seems to believe he has a contractual obligation to God and that God should be honored by and should honor the Pharisee's commitment. Ask God to reveal to you when you come to God in pride and what you are prideful about. (What I mean is, what areas of your life and works do use to bargain with God or do you use as bargaining chips to seek the blessings of God?) Write down what things you need to keep doing but stop using as a bargaining chip with God in your prayers and service. Remember 18:14 (and the parallel verses Luke 14:11 and Luke 1:52).

Conclusion: Assignment

9. Memorize 18:14 and recite to a friend. Compare it to Luke 1:52 and 14:11 as you pray for the Lord to prepare your heart for the next message from Luke. The next Lesson will probably be from Luke 18:9-30 about entering the kingdom.