

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: The Way of Prayerful Dependence

**Passage: Luke 18:1-17 (ESV)**

Illustration:

Need: Jesus shows His followers how to access God's provision as they face difficulty in following Him.

**I. God moves on the consistent, persistent prayer of His children. (1-8)**

- This parable is likely related to the previous teaching about the delayed return of Jesus.
- The judge was an uncaring official or police-magistrate appointed by Herod or the Romans.
- The widow assumed her only hope for justice was the judge moving on her behalf.
- The judge realized if he continued to ignore the widow she could potentially spoil his reputation.
- Unlike the self-serving judge, God hears and acts on behalf of His "chosen ones" who consistently and persistently call on Him to help in their times of need. (**Heb. 4:16; Psalm 25:2-3**)
- Delays in God's provision show only that God's will for us demands it, not that He is not working.

**II. God raises up those who humbly fall upon His grace. (9-14)**

- The next parable is one of stark contrast between one everyone revered and one everyone despised.
- The story reveals two main points: 1. Justification is extended by God to humble sinners who genuinely repent, & 2. God raises up those who come to Him in humility. I believe Luke is highlighting #2.
- The repentant one stood away from the crowd, would not lift his eyes to heaven, beat his chest in great sorrow and grief over his sin, and pleaded for God to extend His "atoning mercy/grace."
- The word translated mercy is the same word used in the Septuagint for the Hebrew "kippur" (atonement) as in "Yom Kippur" (Day of Atonement). Also translated "Propitiation" in **Heb. 2:17** only.

**III. God eagerly welcomes those who come to Him with dependent, child-like, faith. (15-17)**

- This section also has multiple angles and truths.
- #1. Jesus makes it clear that He loves and receives children because they are valuable to Him and that no one should ever hinder them from coming to Him.
- #2. Jesus illustrates entrance into God's Kingdom by the same kind of faith that a child demonstrates.
- #3. Some believe that this text may also lend to the provision of salvation for those who are too young to comprehend their own sin and sinfulness.

**IV. Things to remember:**

1. We must cultivate prayer as a normal part of our lives, especially when facing opposition to the faith.
2. We had be very careful of the temptation to see others through the lens of our own self righteousness.
3. We can run to Him in total reckless dependency and trust.