

- I) V1-8 THEN: He spoke a parable to them that men always *ought to pray* and not lose heart
 - a) Luke introduces to us a parable, and actually gives us the heart of it: men ought to pray
 - 1) From the beginning, he makes it clear that believers pray
 - 2) THE FACT IS: Prayer is the heartbeat of believers in Jesus

- II) KEY: As Christians, we know that prayer is a conversation we have with God
 - a) THE BLESSING IS: God has actually invited us to speak to Him, whenever we desire to
 - 1) Jer 33:3 Call unto Me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things...
 - 2) Ps 50:15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.
 - 3) Mt 7:7-8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you; for everyone who asks receives and he who seeks finds and to him who knocks it will be opened

- III) WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD: Because we have come to faith in His Son
 - a) Before we were saved, our sins actually separated us from the Lord
 - 1) Is 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

- IV) AS CHRISTIANS: We know that God answers prayer because we know that God cares about us
 - a) God has made it clear that we can bring our concerns to Him
 - 1) Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry.
 - 2) Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- V) OBVIOUSLY: Sometimes our prayers that we have prayed seem to go unanswered
 - a) Sometimes it is because our prayers are *selfish prayers* (American Idol, or win a game)
 - 1) Jas 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.
 - b) Sometimes we simply do not expect God to answer them, so they are half-hearted prayers
 - 1) Jas 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

- VI) SOMETIMES: God simply will not grant our requests because it does not line up with His will
 - a) 1 Jn 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- VII) KEY: Our prayers are answered with a yes, no, and sometimes wait
 - a) Often, when we find ourselves in difficult times, we will cry out for God to help and deliver us

- VIII) HERE: In light of what Jesus had just taught regarding His return, He now encourages them to pray
 - a) He has just made it clear that there would be very difficult times for believers (Lu 17:22)
 - 1) Sometimes He does not, but allows us to go through the hard time

- IX) MATTHEW: Records much more information concerning the return of Jesus
 - a) He makes it very clear that the days just preceding His return will be very difficult
 - 1) Mt 24:5-7, 9-11, V17-24, 29-31

- I) **KEY:** This kind of information could cause His disciples to become discouraged
 - a) They could lose heart, thinking that He was not returning at all
 - 1) **HIS POINT:** Hold on and do not lose heart
 - 2) Mt 24:13 He who endures to the end shall be saved

- II) **V1 WHAT SHOULD THEY DO:** They should pray constantly and not lose heart
 - a) He will return at the right moment, and will destroy the powers of evil
 - 1) Those who have trusted in Him will rejoice, and be victorious

- III) **OBVIOUSLY:** Being constant in prayer is not just for those who are going through the tribulation
 - a) **IN REALITY:** Habitual, fervent prayer should be the practice of every believer
 - 1) Jas 5:16 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - 2) Ro 12:12 (We are to be) rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer

- IV) **JESUS:** Illustrates the need to persist in prayer with this parable
 - a) **HIS POINT:** We should continue in prayer, even when our answer does not come immediately
 - 1) We are to continue in prayer, and not lose heart

- V) **V2 THERE:** Was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man
 - a) He sets the tone of the parable by using the illustration of an ungodly judge
 - 1) He does not care about God, and does not listen to the opinions of other men
 - 2) This makes him insensitive about the feelings and concerns of others

- VI) **V3 NOW:** There was a widow in that city and she came to him saying Get justice for me from my
 - a) Widows were amongst the most vulnerable people in Israel
 - 1) God shows great concern for them in His commands to Israel
 - 2) Ex 22:22-23 You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, *and* they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry
 - 3) Ps 146:9 The LORD watches over the strangers; He relieves the fatherless and widow; But the way of the wicked He turns upside down.

- VII) **V4-5 AND:** He would not for a while but afterward he said within himself Though I do not fear God
 - a) It was not out of concern but fatigue that he finally acts on her behalf
 - 1) Perhaps he knew her claim was just but also knew she could not bribe him, so he acts

- VIII) **V6-7 THEN:** The Lord said Hear what the unjust judge said And shall God not avenge His own
 - a) **FIRST:** There will be believers, crying out to God for help and thinking it is not coming
 - 1) This will occur in the time preceding His return

- IX) **SECOND:** It is a lesson on persevering in prayer
 - a) God loves His children, and He responds to those who cry to Him for His help
 - 1) Sometimes it may seem that He does not hear us when we do
 - 2) Ps 22:2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; and in the night season, and am not silent
 - 3) Ps 86:3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, For I cry to You all day long.

- I) **V8 I TELL YOU:** That He will avenge them speedily Nevertheless when the Son of Man comes will He
 - a) **JESUS' POINT:** Though He may not act as quickly as we would like, He does act
 - 1) Why would He delay: because He may be giving the others time to repent
 - 2) 2 Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
 - 3) 1 Ti 2:4 (God) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- II) **IN HIS RETURN:** Will He really find faith on the earth
 - a) When He returns, true faith on earth will be extremely rare, as in the days of Noah
 - 1) The days prior to His return will be filled with unbelief, apostasy, and persecution
 - 2) Mt 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold

- III) **V9-14 Also:** He spoke a parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous
 - a) Again, Luke is giving to his readers the point of the parable he is about to introduce
 - 1) **PURPOSE:** A warning against being self-righteous

- IV) **HERE:** We meet to two people: A Pharisee and a publican, contrasting pride and humility
 - a) **PHARISEES:** Were a very influential religious sect
 - 1) They had the majority of scholars, and had influence over the majority of the Jewish people
 - 2) They were regarded as holy, being separated from all outward appearance of moral impurity
 - 3) **THE RESULT:** People looked at them as being righteous and very intimidating

- V) **FACT:** During the time of Jesus, they had degenerated to an outward show of religious faith
 - a) They still kept up the outward appearances of faith, but they had lost its *spirit*
 - 1) In reality, they had become examples of religious hypocrites
 - 2) Mt 23:2-3 The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat, therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do; but do not do according to their works, for they say and do not do

- VI) **TAX COLLECTORS:** As a class, were hated for their greed
 - a) The Jews especially hated them because they helped collect taxes for the Roman government
 - 1) Because of this, they were considered as betrayers of their country for helping their conquerors

- VII) **INTERESTINGLY:** Both of these people went to the temple to pray
 - a) This is another way of saying they both went to church to worship God
 - 1) Each one had different reasons for coming to Temple

- VIII) **V11 NOTICE:** The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself
 - a) He seems not only to have *stood* by himself, but also to have prayed by and to himself
 - 1) He obviously doesn't want to associate with the tax collector, nor does he even pray *for him*
 - 2) **NOTE:** Outwardly he is addressing God, but in reality he is he is talking *to himself about himself*

- IX) **NOTICE:** He speaks of things that he *does not do*
 - a) **FIRST:** I am not guilty of extortion: I seize no man's property through false pretences.
 - b) **SECOND:** I am not unjust: I do not take advantage of people when buying or selling
 - c) **THIRD:** I am not an adulterer: I am qualitatively better than the average person

- I) **V12 NOTICE *WHAT HE DOES*:** I fast twice a week and give tithes of all that I possess
 - a) Along with prayer, these were the basic actions that demonstrated religious faith
 - 1) Fasting and giving are two disciplines of every godly person
 - 2) These are outward manifestations of genuine faith: Devotion and generosity

- II) **KEY:** The problem is, this is outer appearance and not genuinely from the heart
 - a) **IN REALITY:** He was guilty of Hypocrisy, because he did not care for others
 - 1) True religious faith is always expressed by generous concern for others
 - 2) Gal 6:9-10 Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

- III) **SADLY:** This Pharisee was guilty of practicing a religious faith that was only external
 - a) Mt 23:27-28 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- IV) **V13 ON THE OTHER HAND:** We have the publican
 - a) He would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast saying God be merciful to me
 - 1) This is what the Lord requires: Humility and brokenness
 - 2) Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God
 - 3) Ps 34:18 The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit
 - 4) Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.

- V) **V14 I TELL YOU:** This man went down to his house justified rather than the other
 - a) Why? Because he approached God humbly; the Pharisee was filled with contempt and lacked love
 - 1) Interestingly: If you were to judge the two by outside appearances, the Pharisee won
 - 2) But God sees the heart