



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

LESSON 15 – STUDY QUESTIONS
LUKE 18:1-19:10

DAY ONE

1. What idea from last week's lesson (Lesson 14, Luke 16:19 through Luke 17:37) did you find most challenging?

Read Luke 18:1-8

2. This week's lesson begins with a parable by Jesus about the need to pray always and not to lose heart (verse 1). The story is about a bad judge and a widow who brought a lawsuit before him. Describe the judge from verse 2.

NOTE: This short parable (verses 1-5) is an example of a "pericope," (pronunciation pe-'ri-ke-pE), a group of verses that together form a cohesive group or story.

3a. The widow kept coming to the judge asking for justice against her opponent (verse 3). For a while the judge refused. Though he had no fear of God and no respect for anyone, what did he decide to do and why (verse 5)?

b. Read Sirach 35:14-17 and select and record one of the verses which describes God as a wise and holy judge.

4a. Jesus told them to listen to the unjust judge's words to understand the importance of perseverance (verse 6.) Then what two questions did He ask about our just God (verse 7)?

b. How did Jesus answer his own questions in the first part of verse 8?

5. What sorrowful question did Jesus ask in the second part of verse 8?

THINK: Can you give an answer to this poignant question?

6. CONNECTION: Pray always and never lose heart! Sometimes we get tired of praying and it seems that God must not hear us or that He does not care about us. We become discouraged. Our faith grows weak. But in this parable Jesus assured us that when we persist in prayer, "God will not delay long in helping us." God will even provide the faith and courage it takes to keep believing and to keep praying. Saint Augustine of Hippo commented about the relationship between faith and prayer in the early fifth century: "in order to pray, let us believe, and for our faith not to weaken, let us pray. Faith causes prayer to grow and when prayers grow, our faith strengthens." (Navarre page 153) Think about a time when God gave you the strength to pray and not lose heart. Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Psalm 42:8 and consider how you can add more prayer regularly to your life. If you have not done so before, try setting a special time of day to pray.

NOTE: There are many beautiful quotes from the saints regarding the value of prayer. Read the following and let thoughts of how God has blessed you lead you into prayer.

'Let no one undervalue his prayer, for God does not undervalue it . . . he will give either what we ask, or what he knows to be better.' Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

Prayer is a treasure; he who prays most receives most. Saint Alphonse Ligouri

What is prayer? It is, as St. Chrysostom says, 'the anchor of those tossed on the sea, the treasure of the poor, the cure of diseases, the safeguard of health.'

DAY TWO

Read Luke 18:9-17

7a. In today's lesson Jesus told another parable with prayer as its theme. Record the reason Jesus gave for telling this parable from verse 9.

b. A Pharisee and a tax collector went up to the Temple in Jerusalem to pray (verse 10). What did the Pharisee, who was standing by himself, say to God (verse 11)?

8a. The Pharisee gave as a reason for his “righteousness” that he fasted twice a week and tithed (verse 12). The tax-collector, standing far off, prayed in a different manner (verse 13). Describe his words and actions.

b. The tax collector assumed a humble posture and beat his breast. Catholics sometimes pray with symbolic gestures and postures. Where in the Mass or other prayers have you seen or prayed in this manner?

9. Jesus praised the humble prayers of the tax collector rather than those of the Pharisee (beginning of verse 14) saying, "I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other." What do you think Jesus meant by justified?

10a. The moral of this story applies to all of us! Record Jesus’ words from the end of verse 14.

b. Have you experienced this life lesson? Share a brief example with your group.

11a. Luke then described how people were bringing infants to Jesus so He could touch them but the disciples sternly ordered them away (verse 15). How did Jesus react to this and what did He tell them (verse 16)?

b. Record His conclusion from verse 17.

12. CONNECTION: Little children had a special place in Jesus’ heart. Whether we have one of our own or not, a little child has a special place in our hearts. We think of children as humble, loving and loyal, living in the present, gentle and teachable, innocent and joyous. All these are qualities of a disciple of Christ. Like little children we are totally dependent on Him for physical and spiritual sustenance, for the grace to know and love Him. Is there a Cornerstone member who you think demonstrates these qualities? Describe him or her for your small group.

Read Psalm 131:1-3 and record a verse that speaks to you of the faith of a child. Let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

DAY THREE

Read Luke 18:18-30

13a. Today's lesson begins with "a certain ruler" addressing Jesus as "Good Teacher." Record the question he asked Him.

b. Jesus asked the ruler why he called Him good, saying "no one is good but God alone." Then he listed commandments he should follow. What are they?

NOTE: Scholars suggest several possible reasons for Jesus' sharp response to the young ruler. Perhaps the young man was trying to flatter Jesus or even trick Him into denouncing Mosaic law. Pope Saint John Paul II noted that "Jesus wishes the young man to have a clear idea of why he asked his question ... pointing out that "Only God can answer the question about what is good, because he is the Good itself."

14a. When the ruler replied, "I have kept all these since my youth," Jesus told him there was still one thing lacking. What was it (verse 22)?

b. But when the ruler heard what Jesus told him, he became sad. Why was the ruler sad and for what reason would this keep him from following Jesus (verse 23)?

15. Verse 24 states that Jesus looked at the saddened man and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" According to verse 25, how did Jesus describe the difficulty for those who are wealthy?

16a. Those who heard Him said, "Then who can be saved" (verse 26)? Record Jesus' wonderful promise (verse 27). (Good memory verse)

b. From beyond the beginning of time God has worked His wonders! Read and record the question in the first sentence of Genesis 18:14 (another good memory verse) and share one wonderful thing God has done for you.

17a. In verse 28 Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." What question was implied in Peter's statement?

b. In verses 29 and 30, Jesus assured them, as He had before, that those who give up much for the sake of the kingdom receive much. Record these verses.

18. CONNECTION: Jesus didn't tell the rich ruler that being wealthy was wrong; rather, He told him that if he really wanted eternal life, holding on to his considerable possessions would get in the way, since all good gifts come from God, the source of all true happiness. The ruler's inability to part with his possessions showed that he was not ready to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Even among the faithful, happiness can become centered around possessions. Meditate for a while on what happiness means to you and how physical possessions fit into this picture. Are there priorities that need to be shifted in order to love God above all else? Share some specific thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Psalm 37:3-4.

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 18:31-39

19a. As today's lesson begins, Jesus took His twelve apostles aside and told them they would go up to Jerusalem. What else did He say to them (end of verse 31)?

b. We have read the phrase "Son of Man"(also translated as "human being") in earlier chapters. Many scholars relate Jesus' frequent use of this term back to Daniel's messianic prophecies. Read Daniel 7:13-14 (use the NAB if it is available) and record one beautiful messianic phrase that is meaningful to you.

20a. Jesus spoke to His apostles of the suffering He would soon bear. Record His words from verses 32-33.

b. The suffering of the Messiah was prophesied in the Old Testament. Read the following prophecies and identify some similarities with Jesus' words from verses 32-33.

Isaiah 50:6 - "I gave My back to those who strike Me, and My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard: I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting."

Isaiah 53:7 - "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter."

21. Luke stated that the apostles still did not understand what Jesus was telling them because it "was hidden from them" (verse 34). Share some of your thoughts regarding why the apostles still did not understand what was to happen.

22. On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus approached the city of Jericho, which was about 20 miles east of Jerusalem. According to verse 35, who did He see by the roadside and what was this person doing?

23a. The blind man heard the crowd going by and asked what was happening (verse 36). What was he told (verse 37)?

b. What did the blind man shout out (verse 38)?

24. CONNECTION: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" This is a plea with which we can all relate. Mercy means so many things. The Modern Catholic Dictionary says: "Founded on compassion, mercy differs from compassion or the feeling of sympathy in putting this feeling into practice with a readiness to assist. It is therefore the ready willingness to help anyone in need, especially in need of pardon or reconciliation." Like the blind man on the side of the road, we are all in need of Jesus' mercy. Can you think of a time when the words "have mercy on me" and the beautiful gift of mercy received was especially meaningful to you? Reflect on your experience and share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Hebrews 4:16, realizing that we, like the blind man, can approach the throne of God with boldness, confident in His great mercy.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 18:39-43

25a. As today's lesson begins the crowd along the road near Jericho ordered the blind man to be quiet. What was the blind man's response (end of verse 39)?

b. It would seem that this blind man could "see" Jesus even more clearly than the crowd did! What did Jesus do and what did He ask the blind man (verses 40-41)?

26a. The blind man not only understood the power of the "Son of Man," he seemed to recognize Jesus' royal lineage (verse 38). The long-awaited Jewish Messiah was prophesied to be a descendant of King David. Read Isaiah 9:6-7 and record a phrase that speaks of the Messiah as an heir to King David.

b. Read and record the phrase from Romans 1:3 in which Paul also confirmed Jesus' Davidic lineage.

27. The blind man showed amazing faith, simply asking Jesus to let him see again (verse 41). Why do you think the blind man was confident that Jesus could heal him?

28. According to verses 42 what did Jesus say? (Good memory verse)

29. Immediately the blind man regained his sight and followed Jesus, glorifying God. What did all the people do (verse 43)?

30. CONNECTION: "Your faith has saved you." What wonderful words and what an amazing change in the blind man's life, because he had faith in Jesus! Whether through physical or spiritual blindness we sometimes experience times of darkness that seem to separate us from

God's love. Faith in Christ opens our minds to allow in the light of Jesus, brightening our world with His love. Think of a time when you too called out to God for His mercy. Perhaps it was a time when life was particularly difficult, and yet when you turned to the Lord with confidence, He lifted the darkness of your soul and gave you strength. Share a little of your experience with your small group.

Read and record Psalm 27:1 and write a prayer of thanksgiving today glorifying God, the Light of our lives!

DAY SIX

Read Luke 19:1-10

31. As today's lesson begins, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it (verse 1). Describe the man that was there according to verse 2.

32a. Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was. What was preventing him according to verse 3?

b. What did Zacchaeus do in order to see Jesus (verse 4)?

33. When Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was, he looked up and said: "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." What do you find unusual about this command?

34a. According to verse 6, this made Zacchaeus happy so he hurried down and welcomed Jesus, which made the crowd unhappy. What did they do and say (verse 7)?

NOTE: A tax collector for the Roman government would have been greatly resented and ostracized by the Jewish people.

b. In what manner did Zacchaeus respond to the Lord (verse 8)?

35a. Zacchaeus' response showed the crowd that he was a changed man and following the strictest interpretation of Jewish laws of restitution. Read [Exodus 22:1](#) and note a phrase that supports why Zacchaeus would pay back four times as much.

b. Jesus told Zacchaeus that "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham," meaning that through his repentance and faith he was no longer an outcast. With what memorable words did Jesus confirm that Zacchaeus was saved (verse 10)?

36. CONNECTION: Does the story of the "short in stature" Zacchaeus climbing the tree to get a glimpse of the Lord make you smile? How excited he was to hear his name coming from the Lord's own lips! "Zacchaeus! Hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." How eager he was to repent, to welcome Jesus to his home, to be reconciled with those he had harmed, and to give away his possessions to the poor! He is memorable not only for his actions, but in contrast with others of wealth in the Bible who remained unrepentant and unnamed. Consider how you feel after participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Have you ever been inspired to reconcile with your neighbors or perhaps to give to those less fortunate? Write and share with your small group a prayer asking to be open to God's grace or thanking God for His forgiving heart.

Read and record [Isaiah 55:6-7](#) and let thoughts of the goodness and grace of God fill your hearts and minds.

After completing this lesson, read pages 116-123 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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