

## Luke 18 (NIV)

### **The Parable of the Persistent Widow**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

<sup>4</sup> "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

<sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

### **The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector**

<sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

### **The Little Children and Jesus**

<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

### **The Rich and the Kingdom of God**

<sup>18</sup> A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>19</sup> "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.'"

<sup>21</sup> "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

## A NEW KINGDOM COMING

### *Study on Luke 18*

<sup>22</sup> When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

<sup>23</sup> When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. <sup>24</sup> Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

<sup>26</sup> Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?"

<sup>27</sup> Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

<sup>28</sup> Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

<sup>29</sup> "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

#### **Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

<sup>34</sup> The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

#### **A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight**

<sup>35</sup> As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

<sup>38</sup> He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>39</sup> Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

<sup>40</sup> Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, I want to see," he replied.

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." <sup>43</sup> Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

## A NEW KINGDOM COMING

### *Study on Luke 18*

## Introduction

Luke 18 has much to tell us about the hallmarks of a godly Kingdom. As Scotland and the UK examine and rebuild the structures and statutes of governance, what should our hopes and aspirations be for our country?

- A Kingdom of Justice or injustice (v1-8)
- A Kingdom of arrogance or humility (v9-14)
- A Kingdom for children (v15-17)
- A Kingdom of hoarding or generosity (v18-30)
- A Kingdom of suffering and misunderstandings (v31-34)
- A Kingdom of blindness or sight (v35- 43)

Outlined below are three Bible study methods and accompanying suggestions for how you might use them with this passage – drawing out some of the topics above.

We suggest you choose the method best suited to your group and shape the study accordingly.

More information regarding these Bible study methods can be found on our website at

**<http://scottishbiblesociety.org/equip/>**

## Conversations: A Kingdom of Justice or Injustice?

Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)

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## Questions

- 1 What jumps off the page at you? *Groups of 3 with feedback to full group*
- 2 List all the people in this passage, and then identify how they are described. *Full Group*
- 3 Describe the probable emotions of the characters portrayed in this parable.  
Think about the times and describe how you felt when you have been in positions:
  - a) of power (like the judge) or;
  - b) of vulnerability (like the widow)*Groups of 3 with feedback to whole group*
- 4 What do you think are the main lessons Jesus is trying to teach his audience? *Full Group*
- 5 What are the injustices within our society today and what should we do about the situation?  
*Groups of 3 with feedback to full group*
- 6 What place do you think the threat of violence should play in our desire for justice?  
*Groups of 3 with feedback to full group*
- 7 In what situations should we approach individuals, or in our democracy should we avoid individuals and target institutions? *Full Group*
- 8 What are the ways we can help to build a just and equitable society? *Full Group*

## Lectio Divina: A Kingdom of Justice or Injustice?

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## Questions

- 1** Read the above text twice to the group. Read it slowly. Ask the group to listen for a word or a phrase or an idea that captures their attention. Let them dwell on that word or phrase or idea, and repeat it over in their minds... *(take about 10-20 minutes)*
- 2** Read the text again. This time focus on how the word, phrase or idea speaks to your life today. What does it mean for me today? How is Christ speaking to me about my life through this word or phrase or idea?  
  
After a silence of about 5-10 minutes invite group members to share briefly what they have heard.
- 3** Read the text again. This time ask what is God calling you to do or to become. Experiencing God's presence changes us. What is God telling you to do or to be through this experience? Allow another time of silence before concluding with sharing the thoughts of the participants and then praying for each other.

## Talk the Word: A Kingdom of Justice or Injustice?

Luke 18:1-8 (NIV)

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## Questions

- 1** Teach the passage to the group - this may take unto 20 minutes - **learn**  
*You should really memorise the passage before teaching it to the group*
- 2** Background to the passage - **look**
  1. Previous verses in Luke 17 have spoken about the coming of the Kingdom and about the judgement that is also coming.
  2. Jesus ministry with the disciples and the crowds is coming to an end - it only has a week or two to go...
  3. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem (via Jericho) and it would appear these are his words to the crowd following him with their expectations of a coming Kingdom free from Roman occupation.

## A NEW KINGDOM COMING

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#### 3 Questions to ask - **look**

1. Is there anything that surprises you from this passage? Anything you haven't seen before?
2. Who do you identify with in this passage - the judge or the widow? Explain your answer.
3. Do you think a judge should fear God? What difference would it make?
4. Do you think a judge fear what people think? What difference would it make?
5. What should be the rights of widows in Israel?  
Deut 14:28-29 - At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, 29 so that the Levites (who have no land allotted to them or any inheritance of their own and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.)  
James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
6. Who would a widow be dependent upon?
7. What does this parable have to teach us about Christians involvement in issues of justice?
8. Should Christians be involved in protesting against structural issues which are damaging society or just in praying about these issues?

#### 4 Time to apply - **live**

1. What did you like and dislike about this passage?
2. What did you notice about human nature and God's nature?
3. Which part do you think has impacted you most?
4. Who can you tell about what you have learnt?