

# The Gospel of Luke

*a verse-by-verse study*

## Session 29

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*

# The Gospel of Luke

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## CHAPTER 18

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<sup>1</sup> And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

**Luke 18:1**

- Why is a statement like this A) necessary, B) included here?
- It is Luke that makes the statement!
  - A) Because Luke knew firsthand how easy it was to faint, grow weary and want to give up.
  - Having travelled with Paul he knew how essential prayer was to a successful Christian life
  - B) In light of the coming troubles, prayer is the one thing we have when everything else fails us
  - Prayer changes our focus and perspective

# When All Means Fail...

- *To believe when all means fail is exceedingly pleasing to God and most acceptable. Jesus said to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29, NKJV).*
- *Those who believe when there is no evidence of an answer to prayer are blessed! We are favored of God when we trust beyond hope when every possibility has been exhausted.*

# When All Means Fail...

- *We've all been in that place of hopelessness, the end of hope with no rescue.*
- *The miracle prayed for is not happening. It might be a devastating health diagnosis, the death of a loved one, the end of a relationship or perhaps financial ruin.*
- *The valley of no hope is a cold, dark, awful place.*

# When All Means Fail...

- *This is when Satan's hordes come to attack your mind with fear, anger and overwhelming questions like "Where is your God now? You prayed until you had no tears left. You fasted. You stood on promises. You trusted." Blasphemous thoughts will be injected into your mind. "Prayer failed. Faith failed. Do not trust God anymore. It doesn't pay!"*
- *Even questioning God's existence will creep in. These have been the devices of Satan for centuries. Some of the godliest men and women who ever lived were under such demonic attacks.*

# When All Means Fail...

- *To those going through the valley of the shadow of death, hear this word: Weeping will last through some long, dark nights; and in that darkness you will soon hear the Father whisper, “I am with you. I cannot tell you why right now, but one day it will all make sense. You will see it was all part of My plan. It was no accident. It was no failure on your part. Hold fast. Let Me embrace you in your hour of pain.”*
- *Beloved, God has never failed to act but in goodness and love. When all means fail, his love prevails. There is no other hope in this world.*

<sup>1</sup> And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

**Luke 18:1**



- 2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
- 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
- 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;
- 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
- 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
- 7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
- 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.

**Luke 18:2-8**

8b Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

**Luke 18:9**

- How many will have given up the race because it is taking too long?
- Will our faith survive the test?
- Do we still trust God as we did at the start?
- Has our confidence in God waned on account of His apparent silence?

# God's Silence

- *Has God trusted you with a silence — a silence that is big with meaning? God's silences are His answers. Think of those days of absolute silence in the home at Bethany! Is there anything analogous to those days in your life?*
- *Can God trust you like that, or are you still asking for a visible answer? God will give you the blessings you ask if you will not go any further without them; but His silence is the sign that He is bringing you into a marvellous understanding of Himself.*

# God's Silence

- *Are you mourning before God because you have not had an audible response? You will find that God has trusted you in the most intimate way possible, with an absolute silence, not of despair, but of pleasure, because He saw that you could stand a bigger revelation.*
- *If God has given you a silence, praise Him, He is bringing you into the great run of His purposes. The manifestation of the answer in time is a matter of God's sovereignty.*

# God's Silence

- *Time is nothing to God. For a while you say — “I asked God to give me bread, and He gave me a stone.” He did not, and to-day you find He gave you the bread of life.*
- *A wonderful thing about God's silence is that the contagion of His stillness gets into you and you become perfectly confident — “I know God has heard me.” His silence is the proof that He has.*
- *As long as you have the idea that God will bless you in answer to prayer, He will do it, but He will never give you the grace of silence.*

# God's Silence

- *If Jesus Christ is bringing you into the understanding that prayer is for the glorifying of His Father, He will give you the first sign of His intimacy — silence.*
  - Oswald Chambers – My Utmost for His Highest

# God's Silence

- Consider the long periods of silence in Abraham's life
- Consider the long silence from the call of David to his being appointed as king
- Consider what happens when we try to fill in the silence with our 'wisdom' – 1 Kings 13

# God's Silence

- *When God brings the blank space, see that you do not fill it in, but wait.*
- *In the beginning you may see clearly what God's will is... Wait for God's time to bring it round and He will do it without any heartbreak or disappointment. When it is a question of the providential will of God, wait for God to move.*
  - Oswald Chambers – My Utmost for His Highest



<sup>9</sup> And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:

<sup>10</sup> Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

<sup>12</sup> I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

**Luke 18:9-12**

**13** And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

**14** I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

**Luke 18:13-14**

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To be continued...

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