

Summer in the Parables
 Class IV: Parables of Grace, II
 Grace Church Bellingham, July 28, 2024

PARABLES

Kingdom	Grace	Judgment
Everywhere Mysterious At Work Elicits response	Upside down (left-handed power) Least, last, little, lost receive Death & resurrection, not life & performance	

End of religious acts... all in
the mystery of Jesus' death and
resurrection

Parables of Grace

Grace as
kingdom program

Parable	Passage
Lost Sheep, Lost Coin	Matthew 18:10-14
Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:21-35
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-28
Friend at Midnight	Luke 11:5-13
Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21
Watchful Servants	Luke 12:35-48
Barren Fig Tree	Luke 13:6-9
Mustard Seed, Yeast, Narrow Door	Luke 13:10-30
The Great Banquet	Luke 14:15-24
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32
Unjust Steward	Luke 16:1-13
Lazarus & Dives	Luke 16:19-31
Returning Servant	Luke 17:7-10
Unjust Judge	Luke 18:1-8
Pharisee & Publican	Luke 18:9-14

Luke **18** And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.' " ⁶And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

CHARACTERS

Judge	Widow
Decider	Loser
Doesn't care about perceptions	Wants to win
Disreputable	Still trying to ace system

A judge who's sketchy
A loser who's stuck on winning

MOTIVES

Judge	Widow
Not merit based	
For his own convenience	Wants to beat adversary
Not waiting for acceptance of losing	

ACTIONS

Judge - God	Widow - His Chosen
Gives righteousness	Cries out (complains)
Has mercy (forbearance, steadfastness)	Receives righteousness
Gives goodness soon	

THE UNJUST JUDGE (LUKE 18:1-8)

- How are we justified (Ephesians 2:8)?
- Do you think it matters to God whether anyone's cause is just (prodigal, steward)?
- God is going to act in righteousness and with steadfast mercy SOON... when?

Luke 18:⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

Pharisee	Tax Collector
Law-follower	Sellout
God-honorer	Dishonorable
Upright	Slimy

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’

Outward uprightness
Inward discipline
Thanks God

Pharisee “good guy”	Tax Collector
Presents himself	
Thanks God	
Avoids bad people	
Does good	

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

Pharisee “good guy”	Tax Collector “bad guy”
Presents himself	Doesn't approach
Thanks God	Downcast
Avoids bad people	Identifies as bad
Does good	Asks for mercy

Who's better off
... and why?

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14)

¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Both equally dead
- Issue is where is your hope?
- How does God work?
- What are our objections?

PHARISEE & PUBLICAN (LUKE 18:9-14) OUR PROBLEM

Pharisee “good guy”		Tax Collector “bad guy”
Presents himself		Doesn't approach
Thanks God		Downcast
Avoids bad people		Identifies as bad
Does good		Asks for mercy

TEACHING MINISTRY OF JESUS

Kingdom		Grace		Judgment		
Baptism & Temptation	Parables	Feeding 5k	Parables	Palm Sunday	Parables	Death, Resurrection, Ascension
Matt 3-4 Mark 1 Luke 3-4		Matt 14, Luke 9, Mark 6		Matt 21, Luke 19, Mark 11		Matt 27-28, Luke 23-24, Mark 16

Matthew's Timeline (13)

Luke's Timeline (9-18)

Matthew's (19-25)